

Major improvements on Lichfield Road in jeopardy

£11M SHORTFALL IN ROAD REVAMP

Report by Lisa O'Brien

PLANS for a £15 million re-vamp of one of Walsall's busiest roads is £11m short of funding, it has emerged.

Walsall Council wants to improve junctions along the main A461 Lichfield Road which runs from the town centre towards Walsall Wood to improve traffic flow.

But so far just £4m has been secured towards the project. The A461 has been earmarked for new junctions, upgraded traffic lights and pedestrian crossings.

An action plan drawn up by the council states that the scheme is estimated to cost £15.4m, but there is currently a funding gap of £11.4m. The congestion-busting scheme was unveiled more than two years ago and would see new signalised junctions created, pedestrian crossing points added and better bus stops installed on the route.

The route is the main link between Walsall town centre and Brownhills, with thousands of motorists a day travelling along the route. Areas earmarked for improvements include the Mellish Road roundabout, Rushall traffic lights, Salters Road traffic lights and Shire Oak traffic lights.

Congestion

Walsall Council leader Mike Bird said the scheme would be dependant on funding.

Councillor Mike Bird said: "The A461 improvement scheme seeks to address the issue of growing congestion along this strategic route."

"There are four major junctions along the route, including three traffic signal junctions."

"It is Walsall Council's ambition to improve each junction and it is anticipated that this will be achieved in a phased approach."

"The Shire Oak Junction - Lichfield Road/Chester Road - and the junction of Lichfield Road/Salters Road have been promoted within the Black Country Local Growth Fund as part of a proposed Access to Growth transport programme in the 2015-21 period."

"Walsall Council will be progressing a scheme design for these junctions in anticipation of future implementation funding becoming available via the Local Growth Fund."

Traffic regularly builds up near the Mellish Road roundabout at busy periods.

There is also often congestion at the Daw End Lane junction in Rushall.

It comes as a £26m plan to create a new road network in Darlaston is under way as part of moves for the enterprise zone.

The scheme is set to see better access links connecting Darlaston to the A454 and the M6.

MP WENDY HAS IT ALL TIED UP FOR RURAL TOUR



MP Wendy Morton with, from left, Frank Sheety, Mollie Sanders, Keith and Jen Watkins, Bryan and Sandra Phillips and club chairman Dick Turton

SHE successfully pounded the pavements on the election trail. Now Wendy Morton is getting to know the more rural parts of her new constituency.

The MP for Aldridge and Brownhills was invited for a saunter by members of the local ramblers association after winning the seat previously held by fellow Tory, Sir Richard Shepherd, in May. After accepting the invitation, she had to wait until the summer parliament recess before finding the time to meet up with the group.

But last Tuesday the 47-year-old pulled on

her hiking boots and went on a circular stroll around Pelsall and Clayhanger. The farmer's daughter, who hails from the Yorkshire Dales, had no problem covering the two or three mile route and declared she had thoroughly enjoyed herself during the 90-minute trek. Walsall branch chairman Dick Turton, of Shelfield, said: "We were blessed that it was a nice day. The idea was to show her the more rural side of the constituency after all the time she spent knocking on doors before the general election. She's a new MP and doesn't know the place too well yet."

"At the same time we wanted to know we could rely on her backing on the issues that mean a lot to the Ramblers, such as rights of ways matters. We were able to show her places where volunteers had cleared paths, unblocked access and mended stiles, and generally show her what's going on around the patch. She's no stranger to fields and footpaths, given her background, and is a strong defender of the green belt."

"She said she'd been looking forward to coming out with us and she's very supportive of walking as a means of getting exercise."

DEVELOPMENT

Police HQ poised to house offices

WALSALL Police Station will be turned into offices when the force quits the building, under new plans.

Council chiefs revealed earlier this year the Green Lane site was being earmarked for redevelopment as part of the multi-million pound Gigaport corridor. An action plan report produced by Walsall Council says the five-storey building will be allocated for offices rather than other uses such as residential or retail. It is described as being in a 'peripheral location but prominent on the ring road'.

RAILWAYS

Footpaths to close for work on bridge

FOOTPATHS on a main road in Walsall town centre will be closed for a month so work can take place on a railway bridge. Network Rail say the work at the bridge in Littleton Street West is part of the Walsall to Rugeley electrification programme.

It will involve increasing the height of the bridge walls at road level, with work due to start in November.

A planning application has been lodged with Walsall Council to notify the authority of the planned work.

MEDICAL

Referrals within two weeks at 91 per cent

MORE than 90 per cent of patients are being referred from GPs to outpatient appointments at a Black Country hospital within two weeks, figures have shown.

The target is 93 per cent with Walsall Manor just below at 91 so far this year, the latest report to the health trust has revealed.

There are regularly more than 500 appointments in a month and comes as health chiefs have been striving to also improve waiting times at A&E.

Patients being seen at A&E in four hours was as low as 78 per cent in April but improved to 94 per cent in June.

INSIDE

SHANE GEARS UP FOR TOP TV ROLE



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EDITORIAL:
Tel: 01543 465345
E-mail: walsall.chronicles@expressandstar.co.uk

SPORTS:
Tel: 01902 319453
Tel: 01902 319453
E-mail: chron.sport@expressandstar.co.uk

PHOTOGRAPHIC:
Tel: John Sambrooks 01902 319431

ADVERTISING: Sarah Jones
Tel: 01543 465341
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Walsall

CHRONICLE

Celebrations on centre's top marks



Rubinder Grewal and daughter Pavleen, aged 11 months

Staff, parents and youngsters are celebrating after a children's centre in Walsall chalked up top marks in an Ofsted inspection.

Palfrey Sure Start Children's Centre, in South Street, was given an 'outstanding' grade by inspectors.

Praised was heaped on the children's centre's leadership team and the quality of its services, while staff were said to be confident and highly-skilled.

In a report recently published following an inspection last month, lead inspector Graham Lee said: "The leadership team know the community excep-

tionally well and are highly respected. They have created and developed a very talented staff team.

"As a result, the centre has maintained the high quality of its services for families that need them most since the previous inspection. The centre is at the heart of its diverse community and is held in high regard by all who come into contact with it.

"It is an extremely vibrant place and promotes cohesion in the community exceptionally well."

The report said the centre's work with its most vulnerable families in their own

homes was highly effective and had resulted in considerable improvements in family life over time and a reduction in the risk of harm to children.

It said there was a range of high quality services to support parents with their children's early learning and development.

Arfan Zaman, community engagement worker, said: "This adds to the outstanding rating in every category the centre achieved in its last inspection in 2010. This is due to the hard work and commitment of our staff and the enthusiasm of our families."

Nine are arrested at tense march by EDL

HUNDREDS of English Defence League supporters took to the streets of Walsall for a march which led to nine arrests.

Shops were boarded up on Saturday but the ugly scenes were restricted to minor flashpoints with the police.

Nine people were arrested for breach of the peace and low-level public order offences. Demonstrators chanted anti-Muslim songs and carried hand-written placards.

Organisers had described the town as a 'hotbed for Islamic terrorism' and also claimed that Walsall has 'growing Muslim-only no-go areas'.

Witnesses said there were around 300 police officers on the streets, with many of them keeping a low profile away from the centre ready to be called on. But it appeared that local protesters were in the minority, with shaven-headed EDL supporters travelling from around the country to take part.

Poundland at the top of Park Street boarded up a window and the nearby Wharf Bar did not open. Shoppers in Tesco watched in bewilderment as the EDL passed by. Walsall Council said it spent £20,000 boarding up properties, including the art gallery. But most of the town centre was able to trade as usual.

Prevented

After the rally there were flashpoints in Gallery Square, while a passing car near to the Townend roundabout appeared to be kicked at and a group appeared to try and surge down St Paul's Street in the direction of the counter We Are Walsall celebration.

However, they were prevented from getting down the road by a wall of police officers. After meeting at the Oak Inn pub, Green Lane, the EDL supporters set off on a march towards Walsall New Art Gallery at 1pm. Some of the protesters covered their faces and at least one person wore a pig mask.

The march went around the Townend roundabout, past Park Street and into Gallery Square as some people took to the streets to applaud as they passed. After a series of speeches, members started to disperse after just over an hour.

The area was cleared by around 3.30pm. The counter We Are Walsall event, held to highlight the cultural diversity of the town, took place at The Crossing at St Paul's.

Councillor Aftab Nawaz said it had been successful in celebrating the diversity of the town with around 300 people passing through.



About 250 far right-wing demonstrators turned out for the English Defence League protest in Walsall

19 firms get food hygiene warning

NINETEEN Walsall businesses have received a zero rating – the lowest score possible – for their hygiene in the past 12 months.

Health inspectors took action by temporarily closing Little Bengal, in Blackwood Road, Streetly, and Pizza Nizza, in Walsall town centre, earlier this year after mouse droppings were found.

Aunt Sally's, just yards from Pizza Nizza in Bridge Street, was also given the lowest rating. Supermarkets in the borough which were given the lowest scores included Beer Bank in Darlaston and ANS Supermarket in Palfrey.

Others included Slices takeaway in Bloxwich High Street, Spice Vila takeaway in Pheasey, Woodhouse Chinese Takeaway in Walsall Wood and Dixy Chicken in the town centre. Also falling short were

JTF Wholesale at Bescot Retail Park and Amaanz 1 Stop Mini Mart, in Lewis Street, Birchills.

The Big Munch in Brownhills and Billy Bunter's Bakehouse, in the Park Street Arcade, were also given the zero rating.

Meanwhile, more than 100 food businesses across the borough have been given a rating of 'one' by health inspectors since August last year. The rating means 'major' improvement is necessary.

The shops included Family Choice in Blakenall which was inspected in February this year. Following a visit in October last year, it was temporarily closed by health officers after they found a mouse infestation.

It was found to be infested with more than 60 mice on the floors, shelves and in packaged foods.

Joy as axed market set to return next month

DARLASTON Market will make its long-awaited return on September 14 – four years after it was scrapped due to budget cuts.

Around 30 traders will pitch up around King Street at the relaunched market. Its return has been hailed as a big boost towards drawing shoppers back in to the town.

It will run three days a week and is being taken on by private operators Bescot Promotions and manager Spencer Evans said the market would have a wide mix of traders from fruit and vegetables to fashion.

He added: "It is great to have another market. Hopefully it will boost the town and give it a bit of life. It has been a long time since the market has been there."

Darlaston South councillor Paul Bott also welcomed the impending arrival. He said: "It was a well-attended market and it gives people choice."

"It gives people an opportunity to start a business in the market itself."

"It is another feature to support the town centre. Some people like to shop around a market, walk into the town and use it."

"It also gives a boost to the shops, you have got footfall going in the market that may go into the shops."

It emerged earlier this year that the market was poised to return. It will be trading on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Plans to bring back the market were approved by council cabinet members for an initial two years.

Three women were targets of drunk sex pest

A DRUNK sex pest targeted three lone women in one day on the same Black Country street, a judge heard.

Jason Lenton made sexually explicit comments to a 78-year-old who was walking her dog down West Bromwich Street, Caldmore, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

Then the 44-year-old approached another female dog walker soon and put his hands on her breast before grabbing the wrist of a third woman who was on her way home from work on February 1, explained Mr David Swinnerton, prosecuting.

The final victim broke free from the clutches of Lenton and phoned her husband. Police were alerted and arrested Lenton who lived in nearby Acacia Avenue, Walsall. Mr Wykeham Garsia, defending, said: "He is deeply ashamed of his behaviour. There was no particular reason why he got so drunk. He had been drinking while watching television."

Lenton pleaded guilty to indecent touching as well as admitting using threatening words and behaviour. He received a three-year community order on condition he attends both the sex offenders programme and an alcohol education course.

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Councillor welcomes car cruiser conviction

THE first conviction for breaching a new Black Country-wide car cruising injunction has been welcomed by a Black Country councillor.

Wolverhampton, Dudley, Sandwell and Walsall councils, working in partnership with West Midlands Police, secured a ground-breaking car cruising injunction from the High Court to crack down on the problem.

The injunction came into force in February and bans people from taking part in a car cruise anywhere within the four areas, or from promoting, organising or publicising any car cruising event in those areas.

Last month an 18-year-old from Walsall admitted breaching the High Court injunction order by racing another car at speed in a 40mph zone in West Bromwich.

He was found guilty of contempt of court by breaching the injunction order and handed a three-month jail sentence, suspended for 12 months, at the High Court Birmingham District Registry on Thursday July 30. He was also ordered to pay £500 costs and warned he faced prison if he breached the injunction again.

Councillor Sandra Samuels, Wolverhampton council's cabinet member for public health and wellbeing, said: "I hope that it will send out a strong message to drivers across the Black Country who engage in this illegal and dangerous act. I am delighted that, since the ban came into effect, we have noticed a sharp drop in groups of car cruisers congregating at hotspots around the Black Country."

MP highlights medical delays

A WALSALL MP has written to health bosses amid concerns that getting GP appointments in the borough is getting more difficult.

Walsall North MP David Winnick has written to Simon Stevens, chief executive of NHS England, and Salma Ali, from Walsall Clinical Commissioning Group, about the issue.

He said: "A number of constituents have contacted me saying that it is becoming increasingly difficult to make an appointment before, say, a fortnight or even longer.

"I certainly appreciate the pressure now on GPs and their surgeries, however, the time involved between contacting the surgeries and getting an appointment has clearly lengthened, more so during the last 12 months."

Lane closures on main route

LANE closures are in place during maintenance work on the Black Country New Road. There will be restrictions on both carriageways between The Lunt Island and Moxley junction until Friday from 9.30am-4pm.

Head teacher's pride over results



Alex Firth, Eleanor Lawson, Molly Stapleton

THE head teacher of one of the Black Country's leading schools, has praised her students for their achievements in their A-level results.

Dr Alison Bruton, Head Teacher of Queen Mary's High School in Walsall, said she was very proud of the students, 'particularly in the context of the increasing level of difficulty of the examinations taken'.

Dr Bruton added that the overall performance had been outstanding this year with a 100 per cent pass rate (A*-E) and 77 per cent of grades at A*-B. In art, design and technology,

further mathematics, geography, ICT, Japanese, physics and religious studies 100 per cent of grades achieved were at A*-B. "It is really pleasing to see the wide range of subjects in which students have achieved such impressive outcomes as this reflects the high quality of learning which takes place right across the curriculum," said Dr Bruton.

"Our students have achieved so well due to their hard work and commitment to their studies, the ongoing support of their families and friends and, particularly, the excellent quality of teaching which Queen Mary's High School provides.

"We wish our students well as they embark on the next stage in their career path. They will always remain part of the QM family and we look forward to hearing of their future success."

Among the top performers were Alex Firth (German B; Psychology B; Spanish A), Eleanor Lawson (English Language A*; English Literature A*; History A*) and Molly Stapleton (Art B; English Literature A*; Psychology A).

We did it! Students make A-level grades

THERE were jubilant scenes across Walsall as students celebrated A-level success.

Two years of hard work paid off for thousands of students, contributing to a number of schools and colleges recording their best ever results.

The overall pass rate across the West Midlands rose by 0.3 per cent this year to 98.1 per cent.

At Aldridge School in Walsall a quarter students achieved A* and A grades, while the pass rate rose to 100 percent compared to 98 per cent last year.

Meanwhile, Barr Beacon School is celebrating the school's best ever results with so many A* that Executive Headteacher Dame Maureen Brennan has described them as 'stellar'. Among the success stories were Tom Nicholls, Sandeep Shingill, Wesley Rawlings and Jack Moore.

George Salter Academy in West Bromwich recorded its best ever results this year, with 75 per cent of students achieving three or more A*-C grades - up from 73 per cent in 2014. Imran Iqbal, the academy's head of sixth form said: "This is another fantastic year for George Salter students."

The ACE Academy in Tipton saw a 100 per cent pass rate at A level. Sandwell College's Central Sixth students secured a 100 per cent pass rate in 20 different subjects, and a 99 per cent pass rate overall. Principal Graham Pennington said: "These results are wonderful and reflect how hard our students have worked to achieve their qualifications."

Pleased

At Tettenhall College more than half of all students gained A*-C grades, while a quarter of pupils achieved the top A* or A grades. The overall pass rate was 92 per cent. Headteacher David Williams said: "We are very pleased with this year's results and congratulations go out to all."

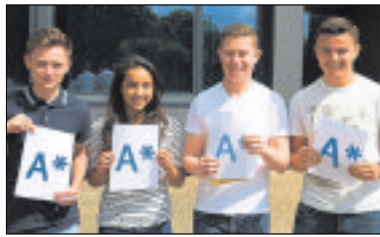
Wolverhampton Girls' High School saw 49 per cent of entries awarded either A* or A, while 41 girls achieved three or more A* or A grades.

Headteacher Trudi Young said: "The girls have worked incredibly hard over the last two years to secure these fantastic results."

At Wolverhampton Grammar School a quarter of students got a clean sheet of A* and A grades, with 72 per cent of all A-level passes at grades A-B. Head Kathy Crewe-Read said: "It's a another fantastic year as our students go on to a range of excellent universities." At Bishop Milner Catholic College in Dudley 48 per cent of results were at A*-B grades and 75 per cent came in at A*-C.



Aldridge School students, Joshua Raven, Zoe Barlow, Danielle Allerton, Louise Slim and Andrew Hill



Barr Beacon School students with A* passes



A bright future for these Tettenhall College students

Education bosses praise youngsters

EDUCATION bosses have praised students in Walsall following a rise in the number of A* grades achieved in this year's A-levels.

The number of students gaining A* grades has risen to 10.2 per cent from 6.7 per cent last year, and is now above the national average of 8.2 per cent. Provisional results show that the average points per

candidate has also improved on last year.

Education chief Councillor Christopher Towse said: "At this time of year there are always nervous young people awaiting their results and I would like to take this opportunity to say a big well done to all of them.

"It's important to recognise

how proud we are of those who have excelled with their results this year but equally I would like to congratulate and recognise the tremendous efforts that all of our young people have put in to achieving their own personal goals."

The pass rate across the West Midlands rose by 0.3 per cent this year to 98.1 per cent.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Call for family to get in touch

ENVIRONMENTAL health officers are trying to trace the relatives of a man who died in Walsall. They are keen to get in touch with any family members of George Brian Leach, who died in Parklands Court Nursing Home, Park Road, Bloxwich, on August 4.

Mr Leach formerly lived at 34, Austin Road, Upper Forster Street, and was born in Bloxwich on November 8, 1933. It is believed that he retired from British Rail and had never been married. Anyone with information is asked to call 01922 653018.

Travellers move on from school

TRAVELLERS who pitched up on school playing fields in Palfrey have left. More than 35 caravans set up an illegal camp off Delves Green Road on Sunday before leaving Monday.

It comes after travellers spent almost a week on land off Broadway West, Walsall and a clean-up has already been carried out by the council.

Walsall Councillor Mohammed Nazir is now calling for tougher laws to stop travellers costing the council thousands of pounds. He said: "They keep coming back. It costs the local authority thousands of pounds."

Consultation on bin collections

PEOPLE are being asked for their views on plans to shake up bin collections in Walsall. Rubbish collections could become fortnightly under Walsall Council plans to save at least £730,000 a year.

One option as part of the alternate weekly collections is for the brown garden waste bin to become the general waste container. The consultation runs until September 30.

Councillor Louise Harrison, said: "We want the residents' input."

First Poundland store set for town

POUNDLAND is opening its first store in Willenhall - creating 15 jobs.

The shop is based on Keyway Retail Park in Armstrong Way.

Bosses have announced that the first 100 customers through the doors at the grand opening on Monday will get a £5 voucher to spend at the shop. Willenhall is already home to Poundland's HQ in Wellmans Road but this is the first store. Since opening its first store 25 years ago, Poundland now has more than 600 UK stores.

New camp sets up

TRAVELLERS have returned to land in Walsall - as the borough continues to face illegal camps across the borough.

Walsall Council officers have visited the site in Goscote Lodge Crescent, Goscote, which has been targeted by settlements already this year.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



IN the United States (where else?) lawyers acting for comedians and comedy writers are threatening to claim damages against people who nick jokes from Twitter and other sources and then recycle them as their own. But is there any such thing as a genuinely original joke? According to showbiz legend there are only seven basic jokes; all the others are merely variations. (To which the tried, trusted and essentially British response is: I'm expecting a number two today).

MEANWHILE, as the Edinburgh Festival and Fringe is under way, and dozens of new comedians have nightmares about how their audiences may or may not react, they should take comfort and remember that being a comedian is the easiest of all jobs because, if it goes horribly wrong, at least no-one will laugh at you.

THE death is announced, at the age of 101, of Frances Kelsey. Her claim to fame is that in 1960, working for the US Food and Drugs Administration (FDA), she was asked to review an application from a US company to make under licence a sedative invented in Germany. Kelsey was not convinced it was safe. The company put pressure on FDA officials who in turn put Kelsey under pressure. She would not give in, even when the company threatened to sue the FDA for libel. And then, as she had feared, reports began coming from Europe of children born with terrible defects. The new drug was called Thalidomide and Frances Kelsey was the woman who saved America from the agony and anguish which this drug created in the rest of the world.



ALL eyes are on Benedict Cumberbatch playing Hamlet at the Barbican in London. The play's most famous line is "To be or not to be..."

But there is another great line. Polonius says: "This above all: to thine own self be true." The line has been discussed for 400 years and is usually presented as a trite or meaningless tip from a bit of an old duffer. And yet it contains a gem of truth. If you believe something to be wrong, don't let anyone browbeat you into thinking it's right. Frances Kelsey was true to herself, and millions of Americans bless her name.

ANYBODY else puzzled by the use of the term "bail out" to describe the EU supporting the Greek economy? You bail out when a boat is sinking; the aim to remove as much water as possible. In the Greek crisis, the EU is trying to pour as much money as necessary into the Greek treasury. It's not so much a bail-out as a bail-in.

TAUTOLOGY corner. I referred recently to "generations who could do mental arithmetic in their head." As a number of you have pointed out, where else would they do it?

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

£16k raised for brave bride Annie

MONEY raised for a mother suffering from cervical cancer so she could enjoy her dream wedding has hit the £16,000 mark. Sadly Annie Marston from Brownhills, died on July 25 after being diagnosed with cervical cancer in December last year.

The 25-year-old had been overwhelmed with donations after she appealed for help to organise her wedding on August 7 but tragically

died before she could enjoy her dream day. However Annie, who had an eight-month-old son called Wyatt, was still able to marry her long-term partner Scott Benton just 10 days before she passed away in a register office service. Her best friend, Laura White said: "Looking back, deep down I think Annie knew that she wasn't going to make it."

"She wasn't able to have her day,

which she would have absolutely loved. But we can just be thankful that her suffering was short in the end."

Around £16,000 had been raised through a Go Fund Me page and it will now be split between cancer charities and a possible trust fund for baby Wyatt. To make a donation in Annie's memory go to www.gofundme.com/annie-scottwedding



Eight-month-old Wyatt with his mum

Baby tragedy 'could have been avoided'

By Nigel Slater

STAFF at Walsall Manor Hospital did not take appropriate action soon enough to stop a newborn baby from dying, a coroner has ruled.

Lochlan Clinton-Smith died just two-and-a-half hours after his premature birth at the hospital in April – a death which could have been prevented, an inquest heard.

Sandwell Coroners Court heard how senior hospital staff failed to formerly diagnose the exact nature of Lochlan's illness of pneumothorax after his condition deteriorated rapidly following his birth.

Pneumothorax is a condition which sees the presence of gas or air between the lungs and chest wall which can cause the lungs to collapse. Coroner Zafar Siddique said a chest x-ray more than an hour after his birth should have been done much sooner.

On April 15 Lochlan's mum Victoria Shepherd, of Green Rock Lane, Walsall, was admitted to hospital after suffering from regular bleeding contractions during her seven-month pregnancy. Minutes after his birth, Lochlan's heart rate dropped to concerning levels.

Doctors applied numerous medicines and an oxygen tube to help Lochlan but nothing was improving his condition. Then more than an hour after his birth, doctors performed a chest x-ray to investigate what was wrong.

But after a total of 11 resuscitation attempts, nothing could be done to save him.

Coroner Mr Siddique said: "We have heard evidence there was a failure on the balance of probability to take action by performing a chest x-ray earlier during medical intervention which in my view would have revealed the pneumothorax and there was also the failure of administering surfactant which could have had an impact. This in my view contributed to the death and had these interventions had taken place my view is, on the balance of probability, the baby would have survived or his life would have been prolonged. These admissions represent gross failure in my view."

Dr Louise Holland, associate medical director at Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, said: "We offer our sincere condolences to Miss Sheppard. We have thoroughly investigated the treatment provided to Lochlan and identified a number of areas for improvement."

End of the road for classic car pair



Geoff and Linda Price, of Walsall, who are hanging up their steering wheels with their last event next month, after having organised several classic car shows throughout the region

WELL-KNOWN couple Geoff and Linda Price who have organised hundreds of classic car shows in the past 40 years have announced they are retiring.

Over the past four decades, they have seen their events grow from attracting hundreds of attendees to thousands.

Their first show was in 1971, as part of a bigger festival in Leicester and they've been building on their success ever since.

The Newquay Road, Walsall couple will host their final event, the Dudley Classic Car and Transport Show, next month. Geoff, aged 65, said: "I've suffered a bit from age problems, which have caused me to slow down. The pressure and stress of the outdoor events has become too much. Over the years our shows have grown. We started with 300 vehicles. Now we've got 1,200 vehicles at every show."

"When I look back, we used to have a lot of cars from the early 1900s but you don't get as many today. "They don't drive like the modern cars, and they don't have power steering. They're in museums now."

Over the years they have put on shows at Walsall Arboretum, Weston Park near Wolverhampton and Himley Hall in Dudley. Their passion for cars also landed them spots on TV shows including Noel's Adicts alongside Noel Edmonds.

And in 2008, an episode of This Morning was broadcast live from their house, complete with thousands of models on display.

Also, the Secret Life of Suburbia on Sky TV followed Geoff and Linda through the planning of a car show in Walsall, and featured some of his model buses in 2007. Geoff and Linda, 60, will use the spare time they gain to enjoy their other hobby, model buses.

Go Carz in recruiting bid to find 200 drivers

HUNDREDS of jobs are being created at a taxi firm in the Black Country amid a boom in passenger numbers and a need for more drivers.

Around 200 cabbies will be recruited by Go Carz in the Wolverhampton and Walsall areas. It already has 800 drivers on its books at from bases in Telford, Shrewsbury, Retreat Street, in Wolverhampton and Wednesbury Road, Pleck.

In total it is looking to recruit a further 400 cab drivers, with around 200 in the Black Country. Sales and marketing director Cindy Wilday said there was a huge demand for their service.

She said: "Taxi drivers can become an important part of their community, taking people to hospital appointments, job interviews or shopping."

"As a company we are committed to the training and development of our drivers and are working hard to demonstrate a professional approach as much as possible."

Go Carz was formerly Central Cars, and is an independently-owned company which has gone from strength to strength in recent years. It receives up to 130,000 phone calls a week across its offices. All applicants must be at least 25 years old, have had a driving licence for two years, pass police checks and medical, while also having a good knowledge of the area.

An open day is being held at Wolverhampton Racecourse on October 14, from 10am to 5pm. For more information visit the www.gocarz.co.uk website.

College is fourth for satisfaction

WALSALL College has been named fourth for student satisfaction among institutions in the UK offering higher education following this year's national student survey.

The results from the latest national student survey reveal that 96 per cent of higher education students at Walsall College were satisfied with their courses in 2015 –exceeding the national average of 86 per cent for all institutions this year. The NSS is a high-profile census of nearly half a million students in the UK.

Aimed at mainly final-year undergraduates, it gathers opinions from students about their experience of their courses. Further highlights include the quality of academic support at 99 per cent while personal development was rated 97 per cent.

Centre all set for family fun day

A COMMUNITY centre in Walsall is hosting a summer fair and family fun day on Friday. The Stan Ball Centre, in Abbots Street, Bloxwich, hosts the event from 11am to 2pm, with charity stalls, tombola, cake stall, raffle, bouncy castle, face painting and more.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Manor recruiters look to the East

NURSES have been recruited from Croatia and Romania to boost the workforce at Walsall Manor Hospital.

The trust in charge of the hospital has been forced to look abroad in order to cope with a national shortage of nursing staff. Nurses from Greece, Spain and Portugal have also come over to fill 36 new posts.

Earlier this year, the majority of another 85 posts were filled by staff from Italy. Wendy Lear, head of nursing, said: "To reassure patients and their families, all of the overseas nurses can speak English, albeit with an accent."

Cuddle cot cash raised by family

A GENEROUS family has donated state-of-the-art equipment to Acorns children's hospice in Walsall.

Michael and Dawn Nelson from Sunderland raised £1,500 for a cuddle cot. They were inspired to collect cash in memory of their son Jay who was stillborn. Acorns staff nurse Neil Evans said: "One of the most common regrets of parents who lose a baby is that they didn't get more time to spend with their child. The cot gives the gift of time, chance for parents to hold their baby, take pictures and importantly, make precious memories."

Mental health experts at event

A MENTAL health forum is due in Walsall on Wednesday. Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust stages the event from 11am to 1pm at The Crossing at St Paul's. The forum will focus on support for those with mental illness.

The forum, which takes place quarterly, will run from 11am to 1pm at The Crossing at St Paul's.

Places must be booked by calling Sean Cole on 01384 325015 or email sean.cole@dwmmh.nhs.uk

Flower power on show at town church

NOTED flower arranger Glenice Yates will be giving a display later this month. Mrs Yates will appear on August 21 at St Anne's Church, Chase-town. It will begin at 7.30pm.

Tickets will cost £6 each and the price includes light refreshments. Tickets are available from the parish office on 01543 686111 and on the door.

The church is also currently holding an exhibition chronicling the history of the area, until September 19.

Crash blocks M6

A CAR and lorry were involved in a crash on the M6, blocking one lane and causing delays.

The accident happened on the southbound exit slip road near to junction nine, for Wednesbury at around 3.20pm last Thursday. No-one was seriously injured in the incident.

All on board for coach makeover



Museum chairman Martin Fisher

IT dates back decades and was skillfully crafted at Wolverhampton's famous Guy Motors factory.

And now, this vintage coach is getting a makeover by a team of volunteers after making a welcome return to the region. It is one of two Guy Arab coaches from 1959 bought by Harper Brothers from Heath Hayes to ferry passengers on day trips.

They have now arrived in the care of volunteers from Aston Manor Road Transport Museum in Aldridge after being shipped over from Ireland.

The volunteers have set about re-

vamping one of the 40-plus seaters to get it back up and running. This has involved stripping out large parts of the vehicle. Chairman Martin Fisher, of Aston Manor Road Transport Museum, said: "The first aim is to get the one we have started back into running order and looking as it would have done when it was with Harpers."

"We have started to strip out the interior and we have taken most of the seats out. We are working on one at the moment, we are concentrating on getting just the one restored at first."

He added they would welcome any

donations to help towards the restoration worth up to £60,000 and also storage costs. After being bought by Harper Brothers to carry passengers on day trips, the coaches were sold to a Scout group in Northern Ireland in 1971. They were then used by a coach company in the Republic of Ireland.

It later emerged the coaches were stranded in a barn on the outskirts of Dublin in a dreadful condition falling victim to rust. But thanks to the generosity of their former owner and an unnamed benefactor the buses have since made it back to home soil.

Chiefs scrap policy for free bin replacements

FREE replacements for council wheelee bins that have been stolen across Walsall have now been permanently scrapped.

The council waived the £18.50 fee for a three-month trial period earlier this year following complaints from residents and councillors.

During that time, 130 bins were pinched and replaced for free. But the now-ruling Tories have confirmed it will not be continued.

Council leader Mike Bird also claimed that the thefts were 'skewing the crime figures' and making Walsall look like a bad place to live.

The trial, which saw the charge scrapped if a police crime reference number was produced, was launched by the then-controlling Labour group between February and May this year.

Bosses at the time said they would evaluate the results although the policy had appeared positive. But Councillor Bird said: "The trial has finished and we will not be continuing with that policy. At the end of the day if you have got any property that is owned or under your control you will be expected to look after it."

Pressure

"It is skewing the crime figures because for those people getting a crime number it was looking like Walsall was not a good place to live and that is not true. It puts pressure on police and to have a crime reference number for a wheelee bin that costs £18.50 is not right."

Out of the 130 stolen bins during the trial period, 89 grey bins went missing, 40 green and just one brown bin.

Families previously forked out more than £33,000 in replacing bins during the 2014 financial year. The policy of replacement bin fees was first introduced by the council in 2001 and initially cost £16.50, but increased in 2008 as part of the budget process.

It is the latest controversy over bins on the borough after it emerged 38,000 went uncollected last year because of contaminated waste.

The council has a zero-tolerance approach to the amount of wrong items in green bins, such as food, household waste, nappies and black bags.

It also comes as weekly rubbish collections face becoming fortnightly under new proposals.

Cash-strapped council chiefs have put forward plans which would see brown garden containers used for waste and picked up every two weeks to save £700,000.



Connie Pace, aged 97, with her daughter Kathleen Hardwick, concerned over a tall tree in the back garden at Hough Place, Pleck

Shock at £800 bill for tree to be cut

A HUGE tree is causing concern among residents in a cul-de-sac in Walsall with fears that it could fall over in strong winds.

But Kathleen Hardwick said the tree is in her mother Constance Pace's back garden in Hough Place and claims the Walsall Housing Group tenant has been told by the housing association she must pay a fee of almost £800 to get it cut down.

Mrs Hardwick said she was 'disgusted' that her 97-year-old mother had been asked to pay, saying she cannot afford it. The 72-year-old mother of four, who lives in nearby Darlaston Road, said: "She's been a council tenant for 67 years."

"She's lived there 25 years and the tree was there when she moved in. The tree is as tall as putting three houses, one on top of the other."

She said neighbours were frightened of the tree falling down, adding: "When the wind is up it blows the tree about. It would wipe a lot of bungalows out."

Rob Steventon, central estates manager at Walsall Housing Group, said the tree does not pose any threat to safety.

Petition is launched in safety call at junction

A PETITION has been launched by campaigners battling to curb speeds and improve safety at the site of a fatal crash.

More than 100 people pledged to back the campaign to boost safety on the A34 Walsall Road, in Great Barr.

People want an end to illegal U-turns and other dangerous manoeuvres taking place at the Tower Hill junction near shops, a pub and restaurant.

There is also a move to cut the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph on the stretch of road following concerns.

Sarah Child, aged 26, was killed and her sister Claire seriously injured after being struck by a car on the junction three years ago.

Almost 200 people have now backed a Facebook page dedicated to bringing safety improvements to the junction.

Fresh concerns have been raised about motorbike riders exceeding speed limits on their way along the route to the Scott Arms junction.

A petition was launched on Sunday during a community fair in Great Barr.

Thornbridge Allotments, in Beeches Road, is hosting the event from 11am.

Campaigner Richard Evans will join campaigners to hold a stand at the event and gather support for the petition.

Copies of the petition will also be delivered to shops surrounding the junction and at Tower Hill Library.

"It is really gathering pace and I have seen a lot of support coming forward," said Mr Evans.

Book spending to be protected

SPENDING on new library books in Walsall has been protected despite neighbouring areas slashing their own budgets. The borough council is set to spend £580,000 on new books, DVDs, CDs, newspapers and magazines – the same as last year.

Neighbouring Wolverhampton council, however, will spend just £113,450 on new books this year – a cut of £100,000 on the year before.

Although the books budget has been kept the same, Walsall Council is trying to get volunteers in to help run them to save money.

Leisure chief Councillor Anthony Harris said: "We buy books because we want people to read them. Savings have to be made but we're exploring all the options and opportunities."

Food quarter at centre on way

MOVES to create a food quarter at Walsall's Saddlers Centre have moved a step closer after permission was granted for two new restaurants or cafes. Walsall Council has now given the nod to plans to split a shop in half.

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Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. "Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people

money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as we should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people

I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!



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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews



Another fine name with Stan and Olly

WHO would have thought it? Far from being the bumbling, slapstick figures of fun portrayed in their films, they were also trendsetters, way ahead of their time. According to the Office of National Statistics, Oliver and Stanley are among the most popular names for boys today, with Elsie and Ivy making a comeback for girls. Now I knew Oliver had been popular for a while, but I thought the others had died out long ago.

Seth, popularised by the old rogue in Emmerdale Farm, also makes the top 100, as does Finlay, the doctor with the rather large casebook. And who, a few years ago, would have thought Austin, Albert and Frederick would be the monikers of choice for trendy parents?

Strangest of all, though, is that the biggest gainers are Ellis and Jackson, which make the top 100 for the first time in history. Look, I'm know I'm not terribly well up in these things, but aren't they supposed to be surnames?

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

NOBODY goes to hospital if they can avoid it. As fun destinations go, the average hospital ward ranks some way below Blackpool during the stag party season and the dole office on a Monday morning.

People have to visit hospitals either because they are unwell themselves, or to visit sick loved ones. Yet despite this, or maybe because of it, hospitals in the Black Country are charging visitors up to £2.60 an hour to use their car parks.

Imagine you have a seriously ill relative, and spend three-to-four hours a day visiting them. Isn't that traumatic enough, without paying more than £50 a week for the privilege? And then, of course, you will be charged for an extra hour because of the absurd queue at the paypoint when visiting time finishes. This is exactly what a man queuing at the pay station told me he was having to do while his wife was in hospital.

It is outrageous enough that councils charge shoppers to use the car parks we already own, but at least we can take our custom elsewhere. Hospitals, though, have a captive market, and they know it.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

STAYING on the subject, Dudley town centre traders have hit out at the £6.5 million revamp of the market place, saying the money would have been better spend providing car parking. And in matters completely unconnected, Rex Johnson the jeweller is leaving town after more than 40 years.

Meanwhile in Wolverhampton, E Marsh furniture store has moved out of the city centre after more than a century because of the pedestrianisation frenzy gripping the city. Still what do they know? They're only traders, and they haven't yet bought into the local government vision of vast hordes flocking to our shop-free towns to admire the block paving.



Tears of a clown, as painted by member Vanessa Owen

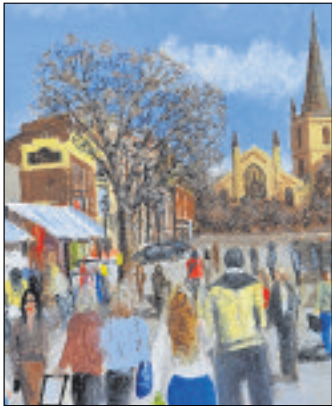


A wintry scene from artist David L Wilkes, called First Snow



A version of the Mad Hatter's tea party by Vanessa Owen

Art and soul goes into society's 66th display



HG

THEY have been displaying their work for 66 years – but a dedicated group of artists say their latest exhibition is their best yet.

The Walsall Society of Artists, a group of keen amateur and professionals, are currently holding their 66th annual exhibition at Walsall's New Art Gallery.

Colour and imagination is at the fore at the venue with more than 150 pieces of artwork from the group's dedicated 140 members currently on display.

The five-week exhibition brings together a range of creations including paintings in oils, acrylic and watercolour and sculptures. Every weekend during the exhibition members will demonstrate their skills at the gallery.

The group currently consists of members who mostly are from the Walsall area and who love spending their free time doing drawings and paintings. Traditionally, most of the group's recent creations are put up each year



Patrick Butler stands in front of a wall full of creations from the society at Walsall Art Gallery

Walsall Society of Artists have been producing amazing pieces of art for nearly 70 years. NIGEL SLATER reports

at the art gallery. This year's exhibition runs until September 13.

And this year the society are hoping their 66th annual exhibition will go down as the best yet after opting to hold it during the summer rather than in mid-winter.

The society's chairman Patrick Butler, who has been painting in watercolours as a hobby for more than 20 years, said 2015 could be a year to remember for its talented members. "We usually hold our annual exhibition just before Christmas each year but for the first time we are holding it in the summer. This is because we want the public to buy the items ready for Christmas. In the past they have not been able to because the pieces have had to



Foreign Skyline Reflection by David Burbidge

where they hold demonstrations and classes. One of its many proud members is Cheslyn Hay resident David McGuire, 68, who joined the group five years ago to expand on his skills as an amateur photographer.

Now the secretary of the society, Mr McGuire said the relationship between the art gallery and the society is fantastic for the community. "The annual exhibition is the main event for the society every year and it's great to be doing it again," he said.

"We are fortunate to be able to exhibit at the New Art Gallery, it's a superb venue."

Artists work on display includes Mr Butler's piece titled '327.5 degrees' which came together after he spilt some art tools which then formed an unusual shape.

Other work on display is images of the area, animals and an array of subjects made by the artists from the group. For more information about the exhibition or the society call 01922 654400, or visit www.walsallsocietyofartists.co.uk

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How about fighting today's slavery?

THE man who complained about the Black Country Flag chains is entitled to his opinion. Given his thinking what is he doing to fight modern-day slavery, which still exists in several countries, in more than one continent?

In addition there is slavery's present day permutations like bonded labour, indentured labour and people trafficking. What are his concerns regarding women being brought here to work in brothels, unpaid and unknowing until they get here?

This is a country where slavery was abol-

ished around 200 years ago. The Royal Navy then went on to help quell slavery in places like Arabia, but hopefully the fact that our ships may have used anchor chains doesn't offend him.

If he isn't fighting and campaigning against current slavery and its permutations, why on earth not?

If slavery was wrong all those years ago, it's even more wrong in these supposedly enlightened times.

D TURNER
Bilston

Problem of parking on pavement

WHEN are the police going to stop people parking their cars on the pavement?

Now I am on a mobile scooter and I cannot tell you how many times I have had to go into the busy roads to get past these parked cars.

The police should get something done about this. It's not only a problem for people like me, it's also a problem for young mothers with small children in prams. I know there will be people who disagree, but I don't care as long as the police start to clamp down on this.

D BAGGOTT
Walsall

Bin looking?

M NICKLESS might as well get used to it, (August 6).

Finding a litter bin in parts of Walsall is like a search for the Holy Grail.

I notice litter bins have disappeared from outside the Civic Centre. One would have thought though, that there was enough rubbish generated from there!

GRAEME CONNIGALE
Palfrey

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

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Minority blackening the name of carers

I HAVE been a carer for close on 30 years now, looking after a family loved one and as such I appreciate just how difficult a role it can be.

I know also, that the vast majority of 'professional carers', are honest, hard working and dedicated, having observed vast numbers of them throughout this period.

It is for this reason that I find it inexplicable that a minority, who see fit to abuse the trust that is invested in them, commit crimes against the vulnerable people who are in their care and are then treated so leniently?

Such people blacken the name of the majority, who do a vital job. The latest of these, are the two involved in the tragic death of Mrs

Boyle in a Birmingham care home, and while I can appreciate that the original incident, whereby this lady 'fell from her sling', was not a deliberate act, it was an act of gross negligence, but the create an evil lie in an attempt to cover it up, was inexcusable.

What I find so particularly appalling however, is when carers steal from, or abuse such vulnerable people owing to the fact that these acts are premeditated/planned criminal acts against people unable to protect themselves for which, in my opinion, a mandatory prison sentence should be automatic, not weeks or months but years.

A KYTE,
Care campaigner,
Great Wyrley

Migrants living it up

REFERRING to the letter from T Howard (Thursday August 6) how I agree with every word he wrote. However, I can add fuel to his fire. In an article published recently, it was reported that a boatload of migrants set foot on this land a few days ago.

They were welcomed and transported across the country to be accommodated in a comfortable bedroom each in a good hotel, given three meals a day, a change of clothes and a payment of £350 each per week was set-up per person.

There were ordinary paying guests in the hotel. Needless to say these guests were furious.

All this to migrants who know nothing of our culture or the history of how our benefits were set up, only that they have come to the land of milk and honey.

Our pensioners get a pittance in comparison and would have to fight tooth and nail to get noticed.

P POOLE
Willenhall

Searching for colliery

IT was interesting to read Douglas Birch's letter about the mining industry.

Two months ago I found out that my great grandfather was killed in a mining accident in 1895.

The collier was named Freezland, owned by Richard Lett. Do any of your readers know where this colliery was situated? I think it could be Bilston but I am not sure.

R HAWKINS
Walsall

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Just 14pc of council art is put on display

ONLY 14 per cent of artwork owned by Walsall Council is on display to the general public, with thousands of pieces in storage.

Just 500 of around 3,700 items are being displayed in the town. Thousands of items are not on show at the multi-million pound Walsall New Art Gallery and are instead being kept in storage.

The collection of paintings, drawings and ornaments includes Freud's Portrait of Kitty, Van Gogh's Sorrow and one of Monet's landscapes. But figures released under the Freedom of Information Act show although Walsall Council holds 3,700 works of art, only around 400 to 500 works are ever on display.

Bosses have insisted that room is limited and rotating the collection keeps it 'dynamic'. The £21million Walsall New Art Gallery is considered a jewel in the crown for the borough, but keeping large amount of items out of the public gaze has come under fire.

Blakenall Councillor Pete Smith said: "The fact of the matter is councillors nor the general public are aware of exactly what Walsall Council

By Craig Hughes

is storing and what its value is. There probably isn't the space to put everything on show but it then begs the question why have we got it if it is just gathering dust.

"If there is a reason to continue to possess these items that belong to the public, with Walsall Council custodians of public items, the maximum number of items should get the maximum amount of exposure."

However leisure chief, Councillor Anthony Harris, said: "At nearly all museums and galleries, the treasures on display are but a small fraction of the riches within. With 2,500 metres of space, gallery room is limited. Besides, it's good to change and refresh collections."

Bulky clothing may have led to air crash



Otherton Airfield, where the Kolb Twinstar aircraft, owned by Alexander Crowley of Walsall, crashed earlier this year

A PILOT'S bulky clothing could have caused a crash landing that seriously damaged an aircraft, an investigation has found. Both the pilot and passenger were unhurt in the crash landing at Otherton Airfield in Penkridge.

The Kolb Twinstar aircraft, owned by Alexander Crowley of Walsall, crashed on March 10 this year. The Air Accident Investigation Branch report says that the 27-year-old pilot had 153 hours flying experience. It states: "Following departure, the pilot encountered a control restriction in pitch during a shallow left turn at approximately 450 ft.

"The pilot initiated a forced landing but during the latter stages of the approach, the left wheel struck a wooden post, yawing the aircraft to the left. The left leg dug into the ground and the aircraft slewed to the left before skidding to rest after approximately 15 metres. "The aircraft was examined by the Light Aircraft Association (LAA), who concluded that the control restriction was probably caused by excess slack in the elevator control cables allowing contact with the tail boom.

"Bulky clothing may have exacerbated the effect by pushing a turnbuckle into the side of the boom, thereby causing a temporary restriction." Owners of all aircraft of this type are now to be contacted and warned of the danger of clothing worn by occupants effecting the controls.



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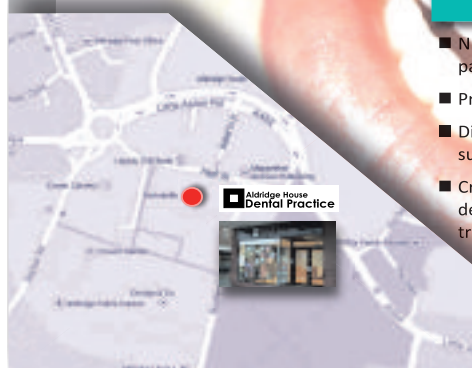
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Shane puts himself in driving seat for TV job

HE has run a nightclub, worked as a mechanic and spent nine years in a Spanish jail.

And now Shane Lloyd has set his sights on Jeremy Clarkson's old job – as he applies to become a presenter on the new version of Top Gear.

Main host Chris Evans has encouraged hopefuls to send him an audition video. So Mr Lloyd, of Rushall, has jumped at the chance and hopes the success of his Race Wars group will put him in pole position.

The 42-year-old organises race meetings for souped-up sports cars and even released an autobiography three years ago. Despite having no TV experience, Mr Lloyd believes he has what it takes to present the show, which is popular across the globe.

Enthusiasm

He organises events at tracks through the Midlands with his Race Wars group – and caused controversy earlier this year when he themed a race around a bank robbery.

But he insists his enthusiasm and huge knowledge of cars should set him apart from the thousands of other candidates.

He said: "I really think I stand a chance. Jeremy Clarkson has always slated people from the Midlands and that just spurs me on to get this job."

"I've been into cars since I was 14 – I'm car crazy and have more than 15,000 followers on Facebook."

The job vacancy came up after Clarkson was sacked for hitting a producer, with James May and Richard Hammond then quitting.

Mr Lloyd's video is now in the hands of the Top Gear makers and he is not allowed to release any of it online until he finds out if he has been successful.

It showed him talking about his re-



Shane Lloyd runs legal modified car events, and hopes to be a Top Gear presenter cent race events and showing off his skills behind the wheel.

Mr Lloyd used to own a nightclub in Tenerife and says a broken bottle split his eye open when he tried to break up a fight in 2002. He needed 15 stitches and came back to the UK for treatment, but later that year he returned to the island with some friends for a holiday, staying in a hotel.

The hotel found the group had used a false credit card which led to an eventual nine years in jail for the four of them. He went on to release an au-

biography Champs – The Kid That Did after writing the majority while he was behind bars.

Mr Lloyd's pride and joy is a turbo charged 2.5l Nissan Skyline that he built himself – a replica of the car driven by the late Paul Walker's character in the successful Fast and the Furious film series. "I spent six years building it and it means the world to me," he said. "It's got a massive GT35 turbo charger and I've had more than 170mph out of it – but that's on the racetrack."

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Bricks to build a picture of town's locks importance

THEY are the talented men and women whose skills put a small town in the Black Country on the map. The lockmakers of Willenhall made the town world famous and ensured names such as Union, Yale, Chubb and Squire went down in history. And now they have been honoured in a new memorial at the corner of Walsall Street and Bilston Street, which is attracting scores of visitors. The structure is made up of personalised bricks featuring the names

of the workers, past and present, and their employers and is topped by a stunning granite block proudly bearing the words Willenhall Lock Workers Memorial. Almost 300 people have backed the £18,000 project by sponsoring a brick and organisers at Willenhall Heritage Trust said it had proved so popular, they were already planning a second monument. One man honoured on the memorial is Thomas Southan, who worked at Josiah Parkes & Son Ltd, which went on to be Union Locks. Mr Southan, a father-of-two and grandfather-of-four who used to live

in Alton Avenue, Willenhall, worked as an electroplater for 40 years. He died in 2004. Daughter Ann Joyce said: "The memorial is such a wonderful idea. It brought a lump to my throat when I saw it for the first time this weekend and spotted my dad's name. "These men and woman worked so hard so make Willenhall a leading light in the lock-making industry - we should never forget them and all those tireless hours they spent in the factories. "If my dad was still with us, I know he'd love this - in fact, we'd probably never hear the end of it! He was very

proud to be a 'Willenhall lock mon' and my whole family are really proud of him and his legacy." Councillor Diane Coughlan, member of the heritage group, said the finishing touches were being made to the memorial and the whole thing was set to be signed off by the council. "We're nearly there with the wall," she said. "The contractors have removed the fencing and people can see the results for themselves. We are due to attend a site visit with the council officers to sign off the work and the landscaping part of the development is due to start soon. "I am just so delighted that the pro-

ject has finally come to fruition after a long campaign to get the support from the council to get it off the ground. I have to say we tried for two years and got nowhere until the previous administration took control last summer and pushed for it. Myself, Sean Coughlan and members of the trust kept trying and now it is almost ready. "Sean and members of his family were formerly miners and we got the idea from a similar scheme set up in Hednesford. "The whole thing has cost less than the original £20,000 budget and the money from every brick that has been sponsored has been ploughed into the

project. As we suspected, once more people learned about the wall, more interest has been generated." Supporters for the scheme include Swedish security products firm Assa Abloy, which now makes some of the best-known brands including Chubb, Yale and Union. The lock giant has an information board that will also be installed at the site. About 280 requests rolled in from people to have the details of workers past and present engraved on the memorial wall. Walsall Council put up the initial funding of £10,000 for the scheme from its capital programme and more sponsorship is being sought.



Thomas Southan, right, 1977



Thomas Southan's brick at the new memorial in Willenhall



At work - Julia Saint and Diane Coughlan

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Parents distraught over day centre move



Councillor Paul Bott with people gathering to protest about the changes to day services at Moxley Peoples Centre

PARENTS are distraught after learning that their disabled adult children may be moved out of the Black Country day centre which has become a second home to them.

Users of day services at Moxley People's Centre in Walsall have been asked to take part in a consultation over a possible alternative venue.

Councillor Paul Bott said some of the parents have been in tears over the prospect of a move.

The group has now joined forces and launched a petition in the hope of stopping the council from switching the service to another venue.

Councillor Bott, whose wife Chris, also a councillor, is chairwoman of the centre, said: "Many of the parents are elderly, in their 70s and 80s, and cannot cope with this news, and have come to us for help.

"They have been taking their sons and daughters to the centre for years and they feel at home there. Their adult children are known and accepted there and don't feel stigmatised."

Around 15 to 20 users attend day services at the centre. Alternative venues that have been mooted are at Fallings Heath and Goscote.

Councillor Bott said that Goscote, in particular, was much further away.

"Moxley People's Centre is on their doorstep," he said. "Goscote is on the other side of town."

The petition, signed by more than 70 people on the first day, has been left at the centre for users to sign.

Councillor Eddie Hughes, leader for care and safeguarding, warned 'change is inevitable' but said services would remain in place during the consultation process.

He said the authority had launched a service review since the introduction of the Care Act in April 2015 with the aim of improving the service.



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The Mayor of Bilston giving tea to evacuees following their arrival



Evacuees in a Baptist school hall in Wolverhampton



Wolverhampton Women's Voluntary Service distributing clothes to evacuee mothers

Recalling days of Operation Pied Piper

MEMORY LANE

Report by Carl Chinn

VIVID news film of the conflicts in Spain, Abyssinia and China of the mid-1930s onwards brought home to the British people the awfulness of modern warfare.

Mostly because it not only affected those in the Armed Forces, but it also devastated the lives of countless numbers of civilians.

Distressing footage showed the panic of old men, women and children as they fled air raids and the onslaughts of enemy troops. It made plain the gruesome injuries, maimings and corpses. And it revealed clearly the havoc, desolation and inhumanity of war.

The effects of aerial bombing in particular affected the considerations of the British government. As early as 1935, when appeasement was pursued



Children among London evacuees who arrived in Wolverhampton on July 11, 1944. The Express & Star said they 'crooned all the way'

vigorously and rearmament was still resisted, procedures were put in place for training experts to co-ordinate civilian responses if war broke out and there were raids on Britain's cities.

Accordingly, organised evacuation was a major feature of wartime preparations. On September 1, 1939, two

days before war was declared, national and local plans were put into operation in Operation Pied Piper. It was the biggest movement of people in the history of Britain. Those who went away did so with their schools, and around 100,000 teachers were involved, acting as guardians for their pupils. Some of

these were as young as five. In later evacuations, Tettenhall, Wolverhampton and Smethwick were places to which London evacuees were sent.

Among those involved was the family of Des Stokes, who asks: "Since 1946 from time to time I have tried to locate the three children who stayed with my family. There was a boy named Cornelius and his two sisters, Pamela and Patricia, all from Croydon, Surrey. I never gave up hope of finding them and recently our search was rewarded, all due to my youngest grand-daughter Poppy, aged seven.

"The school that she attends in St Albans in Hertfordshire gave her a book to read about the Second World War. My daughter suggested that Poppy should contact me because I had experienced what it was like during the air raids. Poppy was communicating with me via an iPad. Whilst I was talking to my granddaughter, I was interrupted by my own daughter, who suddenly said 'He is still alive!'. 'Who?', I said, and she read out details of a man named Cornelius.

"She had been using her computer and his name was followed by his address and contact number. I made a note of this and next day phoned the number, which was answered immediately. We had a good chat and it was revealed that this was one of the evacuees, and both of his sisters were still alive.

"He also gave me the telephone number of Pamela, who was overjoyed to hear from me when I phoned her, as she too had been trying to find us to say thank you for caring for them all during their stay as evacuees.

"We hoped that we could meet them soon. After 70 years, we had a lot to talk about, and it all started with my seven-year-old grand-daughter and her question about evacuees. We finally contacted one of the evacuees on March 3, 2015 and a date was fixed for her to visit us on April 21. Between the two dates I had tried to find out any details of the dates that evacuees had arrived in Smethwick, also which school they had attended. I tried the Archives in Smethwick and Sandwell and 'Smethwick Heritage' magazine, all to no avail. It was looking as if there was no such thing as evacuees in Smethwick."

Des adds: "Inquiries directed me to the Thimblemill Library where I spoke to a lady who was on the board of governors and she promised to make a few phone calls.

"She had our phone number and contacted us the day after to say that my wife and myself together with the evacuee could visit the school on April 22. Whilst conducting this search, I was also looking into records on the evacuees' brother, who had spent eight months in the Hollies (also known as Coopers Lane Open Air School), but with no result at all.

"At long last the evacuee arrived on April 21 and next day we all went to Uplands School. On arrival the evacuee immediately recognised the school and proved that she had attended during her stay in Mansion Crescent.

"The guide showed us around and at the end produced documents for the evacuee and her sister which clearly showed her date of birth, when they started and when they left.

"One of the classes intended to do a project on the Second World War, and both my wife and I will be invited to sit in front to answer questions."

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A world apart for youngsters' fun



Blowing her own trumpet is tutor Jo Billingham with back left, Sandy Galt, Harry Darrock and Nina Brook-

'AROUND the world' was chosen as the theme for this year's summer workshops at a theatre in Aldridge.

Youngsters aged between eight and 16 were invited to take part in the workshops at Aldridge Youth Theatre.

The sessions teach youngsters about music, dance and improvisation and aim to build confidence and self-esteem.

The series of workshops ended with the group of more than 30 children putting on a show for around 100 of parents and members of the public. It opened with a Bollywood dance routine explored Elizabethan England, Russian folklore and African safaris.

Professional actresses and performing arts specialists Jo Billingham and Elaine Symons led the workshops. Ms Billingham said: "It's a fun and challenging week which we hope will inspire confidence and team spirit in the young people."

Aldridge Youth Theatre, in Noddy Park Road, has been running its summer workshops for around seven years. Jan Manning, a member of the youth theatre's management committee who organises the summer workshops, said: "We've had a lot of interest in our workshops this year."

"Some of them come in a bit shy but by the end of the day they have made friends and are eager to come back again."

Upcoming productions being staged by the youth theatre over the next five months include See How They Run and members will also be performing in Dick Whittington, as the theatre's chosen annual pantomime. For details, call 01922 458615.

Fraudster bounced cheques for tyres

A FRAUDSTER claiming to be a roadside mechanic paid for more than £13,000 of tyres and machinery with cheques that were later cancelled or bounced.

Qasim Rashid, of Whitehall Road, Palfrey, Walsall, ordered a variety of tyres and machinery from three different West Midlands companies, paying by cheques that were always stopped at an early stage by him or the bank.

The 33-year-old pleaded guilty to three counts of fraud by false representation at an earlier appearance. He was sentenced at Wolverhampton Crown Court, where he got a 15-month prison sentence suspended for two years and a two-year supervision order.

Mr Edward Soulsby, prosecuting, said the offending took place between January 2013 and September 2013 and involved Rashid ordering goods totalling £13,047 from the companies and paying by cheque, either from his personal account or one called 'Tyre Boys'.

The companies were Automotive Garage Equipment, in Alvechurch, Compressed Air Systems UK, and a Walsall tyre company.

The court heard that on July 31, a Mr Khan ordered two air compressors from

Compressed Air Systems UK. On this occasion the company asked for a bank transfer and Rashid can be seen in bank CCTV footage depositing the cheque in person, which then showed up in the company's bank statement as a credit.

But when the courier went to deliver the order on August 2, the police were at Rashid's address and returned the goods. Officers found a pile of 166 tyres. It is believed Rashid was working with another man, Mr Khan. Mr Paul Prior, mitigating, said Rashid was "not a man of particular sophistication".

Recorder Dean Kershaw adjourned the matter of costs and compensation until a Proceeds of Crime Act hearing, on October 30.

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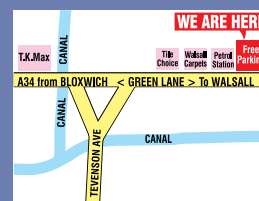
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Blue badge refusals defended by council

WALSALL Council has defended its policy on disabled parking after figures revealed a five-fold increase in refusals for blue badges.

Chiefs claimed the council used occupational therapists to determine applications on an individual basis following criticism from Labour MP Valerie Vaz, who uncovered figures showing a steep increase in refusals since 2010.

By Daniel Wainwright

The MP for Walsall South told of an 82-year-old whose badge application was turned down despite having had one for 10 years for a condition that would not improve. Councillor Mohammed Arif said: "I want to reassure our residents that supporting disabled people to keep their independence is a priority. We assess all blue badge applications on an individual basis using a system designed by medically trained occupational therapists."

"In 2012 the Government introduced a range of reforms which now govern the way blue badge applications are assessed. The Transport Select Committee decided against using GPs to approve blue badges and transfer this respon-

sibility to local authorities who would review applications against much tighter criteria.

"Each applicant is assessed against their mobility. Some may qualify automatically if they're eligible without further assessment such as receiving the higher rate of the mobility component of the disability living allowance. "If an applicant is refused, it is explained how they can seek a review of the decision."

"Whilst MP Ms Vaz has focused on the numbers of applications declined, in Walsall a total of 3,409 Blue Badges have been issued already in 2015, 14 per cent more than for the same period in 2014."

Anger over bench rammed by jobs



Councillor Pete Smith, next to where the bench was, with Ron Keats, Kevin Glover, Tom Hall, Barry Preston, Wendy Smith VANDALS rammed a van into a bench at a field before setting the vehicle on fire. Blakenall Councillor Pete Smith is urging any witnesses to call police following the incident at the Lea, in Goscote.

He said four youths had been spotted in the van driving onto the field before the vehicle was seen trying to knock goal posts down and ramming into a bench.

Walsall Council staff have since removed the smashed bench, but it is not yet known if it will be replaced.

The van was set ablaze before the group were seen to flee the scene. Councillor Smith said there were two benches left at the field, with one having already been vandalised with yellow paint.

He added: "It is heartbreaking to see such mindless and selfish vandalism by small group of anti-social individuals."

"This brainless act has cost the public purse in fire service time, police time and council time."

He urged anyone with information about the incident, which took place on the evening of August 5, to contact police.

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Bringing church to the people at big park event

MORE than 600 people turned out to a day of live performances, worship and activities during a fun day in Walsall.

Bethel Lighthouse Centre, in Caldmore Road, worked with other churches and communities in the town to host Church in the Park at Walsall Arboretum.

On the day, visitors enjoyed performances on the main stage, whilst there were also stalls selling food and drink and activities for youngsters.

Pastor O'Neil Lewis from the centre said the aim of the event was to 'bring the church to the people'.

He said: "One of the tasks was to bring groups together who are of the same beliefs and share the gospel."

Testimonies

"I have had so many positive responses from people."

"There were personal testimonies of those that came up and talked about their experiences, there was so much going on."

"People have already started asking me if I am going to have it next year. We are just thankful that people did come out."

He added: "People had stalls, we gave them the opportunity to sell their wares and foods and drinks."

"One of the acts from the Christian theatre performance group did something for the children, there were bouncy castles and things for children to do."

"I was overwhelmed at the fact that so many people turned out. I recognised faces of people I know from Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Dudley."

"The different churches in Walsall were in attendance which was just beautiful."



Around 600 people attended



Gospel singer Ricardo Williams



Another band seen performing



Sisters Janet Lewis and Ruth Gilmore

"The community was the icing on the cake - a lot of people were passing by, but they stopped and listened. It was brilliant."

Pastor Lewis added that he hopes to bring back the event next year that included poets and a children's choir. Performers included Walsall's

Bethel Lighthouse band; special guest Johnny P Williams, of Houston, Texas; Dudley's Saltmine Theatre Company; Ricardo Williams; and Walsall's Green Lane Baptist band. While speakers included Pastor Stewart Prebble, of Cannon Street Memorial Baptist Church, in Handsworth.

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Early learning helps children to develop

Children's important early start



Youngsters learn through practical play and exploring



Children will get the opportunity to learn, make friends and become more confident

COMMERCIAL FEATURE

FREE early learning – when can your child start?

Did you know that some two-year-olds and all three and four-year-olds are able to have free early learning at a variety of settings across Walsall Borough?

Free early learning can be really beneficial to children.

It can help them develop, learn, make friends, become more confident and most importantly, have fun!

As well as helping them develop now, it can also make a difference to them in the future, as research has shown, children who have a good quality early years education are more likely to achieve higher levels at school.

Some parents worry that their children are too young for childcare or a 'formal' learning.

However they don't get this learning sitting behind desks!

Children will learn through practical play and exploring.

What they do at the childcare

setting will depend on their interests and likes, so there is lots of variety and every child is treated as an individual.

As well as helping children, free early learning gives parents and carers time to spend with other children, undertake training, work or anything else that they may not normally have time for.

Children can go to day nurseries, childminders, playgroups, schools, so there will be something that suits your family's needs.

Credit

If you have a two-year-old then they might be able to start getting their free early years learning before they turn three.

Get in touch with Walsall Families Information Service if your family are getting:

- Working Tax Credit / Child Tax Credit and earn less than £16,190
- Working Tax Credit 4-week run on
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Income Support

- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Support through part 6 Immigration and Asylum Act
- Or if your child:
 - Receives Disability Living Allowance
 - Has a current statement of special educational needs or an Education Health and Care plan
 - Is looked after by a local council
 - Has left care under a special guardianship order, child arrangements order or adoption order

To help you understand exactly what is on offer, how your family accesses their place and giving people the chance to talk through any concerns – there are qualified, friendly staff at Walsall FIS on hand to take your phone calls and emails.

You can also pop into the Central Children's Library to have a talk face-to-face.

Walsall FIS are open Tuesday – Saturday.

You can call them on 01922 653383 or to find out more online, simply log onto www.mywalsall.org/fis



FREE early learning: When can your child start?

Some 2 year olds, and all 3 and 4 year olds can have up to 15 hours each week of free early learning. To find out when your child can start contact Walsall FIS.

Call 01922 653383 Online www.mywalsall.org/fis

Stakes run high in Labour contest



DANIEL WAINWRIGHT
Political Editor

OH Andy, well you came and you gave without taking, but will they send you away?

For Andy Burnham, who visited Brierley Hill last weekend, the stakes are far higher in this long-running and increasingly bitter leadership contest.

Coming fourth in the 2010 election – behind even Ed Balls, who lost his own seat in Parliament five years later – he went into this bout with more to prove than the others.

But as the frontrunner when the competition opened he is also the one many would consider to have the best chance of seeing off the challenge of Jeremy Corbyn – a task that gets tougher as the left-winger soars ever higher in the opinion polls.

Damage

One of his biggest challenges, however, will be if he actually does win.

Frequently, when Ed Miliband raised the NHS at Prime Minister's Questions, David Cameron would point to the Mid-Staffordshire scandal as a way of shutting down the debate.

What happens when the former health secretary who decided against a public inquiry, fearing it would damage the trust beyond repair, addresses the PM?

The weekly question time is little more than an opportunity for grandstanding and showing off and Mr Burnham would undoubtedly fight his



Deputy leader hopeful Tom Watson

corner. Tom Watson, the West Bromwich East MP, remains the favourite to become deputy leader of the Labour party. But as Liz Kendall's chances of becoming Labour leader begin to resemble those of an ice cream on a barbecue, a couple of her supporters have been made an offer they almost certainly can refuse. Wolverhampton MPs Pat McFadden and Emma Reynolds both nominated the shadow care minister.

The two prominent players on the green benches, one shadow Europe minister and one shadow communities secretary, find themselves not exactly relishing the prospect of a Corbyn victory. Step forward Gavin Williamson, the affable and always smiling Tory MP for South Staffordshire.

"I'd be very willing to extend an olive branch to Pat and Emma if they



Lichfield Tory MP Michael Fabricant

ever wanted to join the Conservative party," he said.

I'd imagine there's more likelihood of the MPs paying the £9.99 to join the Official Monster Raving Loony Party than take up that offer but it's always nice to be invited.

Lichfield Conservative MP Michael Fabricant was sacked as a party vice chairman for his outspoken opposition to high speed rail. But Jeremy Corbyn has questioned it as well and if he wins the Labour leadership and changes direction on HS2, it could upset the cross party consensus.

Mr Fabricant had pondered throwing in £3 to sign up as a Labour supporter and vote for Mr Corbyn.

Although with Labour having been on the look out for 'entryists', such a prominent Tory would have surely rung a few alarm bells.



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Bescot move saved slide in fortunes of Saddlers

"WELCOME to the Bescot Stadium," said then-club secretary Roy Whalley in his programme notes on August 18, 1990 - 25 years ago ...

"This is a moment of pure magic, an unattainable dream that has become reality."

Situated just a half a mile down the road from Fellows Park, the opening of a new multi-million pound stadium in Bescot signalled the dawn of a new era for Walsall Football Club.

It is now 25 years since Sir Stanley Matthews opened the ground, which at the time was only the second new stadium to be constructed in England since the 1950s. Bescot wasn't just a new chapter in the Saddlers' history; it contributed greatly to saving the club from going out of business.

Decline

It all started out as a boardroom pipe dream hatched by Barrie Blower and Jeff Bonser during some of the club's darkest days. Walsall's fortunes had undergone a rapid decline since promotion to the old second division was secured in 1988.

Top scorer David Kelly was sold and supporters were forced to endure a truly miserable season that culminated in relegation on the back of 15 consecutive defeats.

Things deteriorated further in 1989/90 when the club finished rock bottom and were sent down to the fourth tier. But among all the misery there was one ray of light. In April 1989 work had started on the new £3 million stadium at the site of a derelict sewerage plant in the Bescot neighbourhood.

The club's ambitions had long been held back by the dilapidated conditions at Fellows Park. Club bosses wanted a stadium from which they could maximise revenue, offering top-class facilities, the use of which could



25 years on - inset, Bescot when it first opened and, below, inside the ground

extend beyond the world of football.

To that end the idea for a new stadium was born. By the end of 1989 the concrete terracing had been laid and the bulk of the stadium's steel frame had been erected, complete with 28 supporting stanchions.

Sponsorship for two of the four stands was quickly secured and gradually all of the 13 executive boxes were sold. By the spring of 1990 seats were installed and the pitch was laid.

When workers moved off the site that summer they left behind a gleaming new 11,104 capacity stadium and a 1,200-vehicle car park. Fellows Park was now a distant memory, by now demolished and replaced with a Mor-

risons supermarket. Bescot was ready for football. Many supporters saw the new home as a sign of better times ahead.

On August 18, 1990, Bescot hosted its first game when Walsall welcomed an Aston Villa side featuring the likes of Paul McGrath and David Platt.

Prior to kick-off there was a sense of excitement ramped up by a bumper crowd of more than 9,500.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, top flight Villa left the lavish new ground with a 4-0 win. But the imagination of Saddlers fans had been captured and 5,219 came back the following week to watch their team draw 2-2 with Torquay in Bescot's first competitive fixture.



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WACC is a college which is tuned into the needs of the community it serves.

The college helps people of all ages and abilities and, unlike some colleges, you will not be turned away if you are not yet qualified. WACC has programmes to get you qualified.

As well as offering a full range of adult and community courses they offer practical help to young people who want to get into work.

For school leavers:

Traineeships

WACC traineeships are the perfect course for someone who wants to get onto an apprenticeship but doesn't have their GCSE grade C or above in English, maths and ICT.

WACC will help students achieve these while training for a career. It also helps to get you work ready with other necessary job skills.

Apprenticeships

WACC has Apprenticeships in around 12 career areas.

The college information and guidance team will help students get ready and apply for an apprenticeship in areas such as:

- Business Administration
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- Children and Young people's workforce
- Supporting Teaching and Learning in Schools
- IT, Software, Web and Telecoms
- Sport and Leisure
- Facilities Management
- Customer Care
- Construction and the built environment
- Hair and Beauty
- Management

For those not ready for an apprenticeship WACC will offer a study programme to get you ready. A programme to get your skills and qualifications up to the standard needed.

What makes WACC different?

WACC has a mission to help all of the community of Walsall to improve their opportunities through education. WACC is different to other colleges.

They have put a special effort into being able to offer more support, advice and guidance to learners to enable them to concentrate on achieving the results they need.

"We believe that everyone in our town deserves a chance to work and be happy and we have the support in place to help people to achieve that," said Jev Bhalla, principal at WACC.



Reuben Taylor-Marshall is on an apprenticeship based at Repc

Reuben Taylor-Marshall is on an apprenticeship scheme with WACC based at a local IT company called Repc.

Reuben comes to the college every Friday to study ICT and spends the rest of the week learning 'on the job' at Repc. "This is a fantastic opportunity for me to learn a great trade and earn

as I learn," said Reuben. WACC has a mission to help all of the community of Walsall to improve their opportunities through education. WACC has put special effort into being able to offer more support – support with money, childcare, personal advice and guidance to enable learners to concentrate on achieving the results they need.



Richard Allington gained an apprenticeship at Walsall Gala Baths

Richard Allington started with WACC as a trainee in sports and leisure.

He completed the course, which he says 'was really good and great fun' shortly after.

With help from WACC Richard was successful in gaining an apprenticeship at Walsall Gala Baths as one of

Walsall Council's sports and leisure team.

"The traineeship course really helped me to get ready for an apprenticeship" said Richard.

"Without WACC I don't think I'd be here now."

"They offer so much help and support it makes going to college easy".

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WALSALL has it all

Top fashion names part of £21m transformation

HIGH street fashion chain Primark has opened its new store in Walsall town centre, marking a major step in a £7 million shopping centre redevelopment.

Walsall Council has funded the 44,000 sq foot retail unit in Digbeth from its own cash reserves which is seen as a 'shot in the arm' for the town's retail area. The store, which opened on August 6, is the company's 163rd in the UK and 289th worldwide.

The eagerly awaited store is at the centre of the first phase of the £21 million transformation of the Old Square Shopping Centre. A Midlands Co-operative Food Store will be housed in the former Tesco store and is expected to open in the autumn.

Both schemes have seen the creation of 170 new jobs, including full and part-time positions.

"It's a massive boost for the town and is the first of a number of exciting regeneration projects to be completed in Walsall," says deputy leader, Councillor Adrian Andrew.

"We worked extremely hard to bring Primark to the borough and we're confident that this development will help bring other retailers to Walsall and support traders and businesses that are already here. This is another piece of the jigsaw in place to regenerate our borough and create jobs."

Walsall town centre has a mix of high street names such as Debenhams and Marks & Spencer, including three major food outlets, Asda, Morrisons and Tesco. Its Crown Wharf development includes popular fashion chains such as Next, River Island and TK Maxx.



Councillor Adrian Andrew



A new £3m headquarters for the Jhoots Pharmacy group will be finished in the autumn



A Midlands Co-operative Food Store will be housed in the former Tesco store and is expected to open later this year

WALSALL LEATHER MUSEUM

Summer Family Fun

We're bursting with fun things for children to
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• Tuesday Leathercraft Drop-ins

Each Tuesday until 25th August - 10.30am - 3.30pm
Drop-in and make a simple leather item for just £1.

• Superhero Wednesday Club

Each Wednesday until 26th August - 10.30am - 12.30pm & 1.30pm - 3.30pm
Superhero themed free drop-ins and workshops*

• Badge-Making

Each Thursday until 27th August - 10.30am - 3.30pm
Drop in and decorate your own badge for 30p.

• Summer Family Fun Day

Monday, 31st August 10.30am - 4.00pm
Free family fun day packed full of entertainment including puppet shows, face-painting and much more.

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Walsall's Waterfront development and the new cinema

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Cinema and fine dining

A NEW cinema and restaurants are coming to Walsall, as the exciting regeneration of the town continues.

The town centre has seen investment of more than £370 million in recent years, including new Tesco Extra and Asda stores, a new hospital, a new campus for the Ofsted 'Outstanding' rated Walsall College and more than 320 new properties at its Waterfront South development.

The leisure offer at Waterfront has already been strengthened by the arrival of a Premier Inn hotel and the £12m new cinema complex in Wolverhampton Street should be

fully operational early in the new year. The nine-screen theatre – the first cinema to operate in Walsall town centre for two decades – will be run by The Light Cinema group and will be the first in the country to boast the latest hi-tech Extreme screen, which delivers a more intense experience through super-high-quality audio and visual.

The development opposite the Crown Wharf shopping park will also include Chiquito, Pizza Express, Bella Italia and Hungry Horse restaurants.

Councillor Adrian Andrew, Deputy Leader for Walsall Council said: "I've been involved for a number of years with this project. To deliver a new cinema will offer first class entertainment for movie goers who appreciate

seeing films with the latest audio and visual technology. We're really looking forward to its completion."

Additional investment will see the arrival of Walsall College's new Business and Sports Hub complex for the start of the new term, which features business start-up space for entrepreneurs, a sports hall with badminton courts, dance and fitness studios, spa facilities and a fine dining restaurant all open to the public. A new £3m headquarters for the Jhoots Pharmacy group will also be completed in the autumn.

And the retail offer for shoppers in the town will be further enhanced with the £12m regeneration of the St Matthew's Quarter and further improvements to the Old Square

Shopping Centre when phase 2 of its redevelopment kicks in.

Cllr Andrew added: "Just take a look around at what's happening in Walsall. There's some amazing regeneration work currently taking place in the town, delivering almost £40m of investment and approximately 700 new jobs.

"We also anticipate approximately £150m of future investment for the town over the next few years, creating scores of jobs for local people."

● The council's long-term plans for the town are explained in the Walsall Town Centre Area Action Plan Preferred Options document, which will be out for public consultation for eight weeks from September 7.

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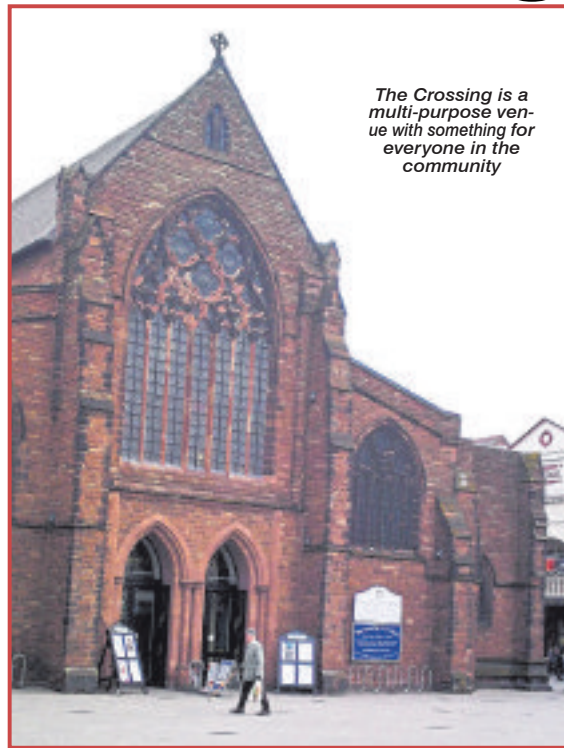
The ground floor offers an incredibly atmospheric chapel of prayer where many find a moment of peace. Also there is a shopping mall having a range of unique small shops including gifts, flowers, cards, and both women's and children's clothing.

On the first floor is a coffee shop which serves food from its five-star environmental award kitchen. You will also find the Walsall carer's centre and church office. On the top floor is the large room where the church meets on a Sunday, and conferencing rooms.

The Crossing is far more than just a venue – it is a Christian social enterprise with all profits being kept within the business to maintain the building and other charitable objects. The enterprise is run along ethical lines in its treatment of staff and suppliers, we provide volunteering opportunities and look to support local charities in provision of accommodation and fundraising throughout the year. The Crossing has a unique place in Walsall's changing landscape and many come back time and again.

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Rev Mark Kinder



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V Fest preview

See Page 27



Love Me Tender

See Page 27



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 www.birminghamhippodrome.com

Martyn Joseph



Thursday, 7pm Kate Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge
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Rocket
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 £5 - £10
 The Jam House, 3-5 St Pauls Square, Birmingham, B31QU.
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Swede Dreamz: Abba Tribute
 Fri - Sat at 7.30pm - 2am, £8
 The River Rooms, Stourbridge, DY8 1JN.
 Call 01384 397177

Bailey McConnell
 Fri at 7pm, £15
 O2 Academy Birmingham, 16-18 Bristol Street, Birmingham, B1 1DB.
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Intrigue In Tangiers
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 The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY. Call 0121 643 0428

The Straight Aces
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FOLK & ACOUSTIC

The Acoustic Sessions
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Irish Music Session
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Martyn Joseph
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The Stray Birds
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 Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

Sandpiper Folk Club Night
 Wed at 7.45pm,
 Pigot Arms, 11 High Street, Pittingham, Wolverhampton, WV6 7BQ.
 Call 01902 700207

Common Folk: Singers' Night
 Thu at 8.30pm,
 Pelsall Cricket & Sports Club, Walsall Road, Walsall, WS3 4BP. Call 01922 682018

Brewood Acoustic Club
 Thu at 8pm,
 Brewood Cricket Club, Four Ashes Road, Brewood, ST19 9HX. Call 01902 850422

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Open Mic Night
 Mon at 8.30pm, Free
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Tree Fu Tom: Premier Stage Productions Ltd
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Animal Alphabet
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 Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
 Call 01543 412121

Dracula! (Mr Swallow - The Musical)
 Sat at 7.30pm, £7
 Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock, WS11 1DE.
 Call 01543 578762

Love Me Tender
 Mon at 7.30pm, Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm, £12 - £50.90
 New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
 Call 0844 871 3011

The Bodyguard
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 Players Bar Birmingham, B1 2HG.
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Roadhouse Comedy Night
 Mon at 8pm, Free
 The RoadHouse, Kings Norton, Birmingham, B30 3DZ.
 Call 0121 246 2273

TALKS

Neil Roberts: The End Of The End Of The Pier Show
 Fri at 10.30am - noon, £2
 Wednesbury Museum & Art Gallery, WS10 7DF.
 Call 0121 556 0683

Ray Lockley: Artist In Residence
 Sun at 2pm - 4.30pm,
 Haden Hill House Museum, Halesowen Road, Cradley Heath, B64 7JU.
 Call 01384 569444

Marvelous Moths: Talk
 Thu at 8pm - 10pm, £2
 Kinver Edge and the Rock Houses, Stourbridge, DY7 6DL.
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ART GALLERIES

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 Call 0121 303 1966

Birmingham's People and Change in the Inner-City
 Sat at 10am - 5pm, Sun at 10am - 5pm, Mon at 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Free
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 Call 0121 303 1966

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 The New Art Gallery Walsall, WS2 8LG.
 Call 01922 654400

Small Worlds

Fri at 10am - 5pm, Sat at 10am - 5pm, Sun at 10am - 4pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Free
 The New Art Gallery Walsall, WS2 8LG.
 Call 01922 654400

Animal Architecture
 Fri at 10am - 5pm, Sat at 10am - 5pm, Mon at 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Free
 Wolverhampton Art Gallery, WV1 1DU.
 Call 01902 552055

Robert Davies: Of Time And The Railway
 Fri at 9am - 10pm, Sat at 9am - 10pm, Sun at 9am - 10pm, Mon at 9am - 10pm, Tue at 9am - 10pm, Wed at 9am - 10pm, Thu at 9am - 10pm, Free
 mac, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
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COMMUNITY EVENTS

Wolverhampton Record Fair
 Fri at 10am - 3.30pm, £2
 Wolverhampton Civic Hall, WV1 1RQ.
 Call 0870 320 7000

Create Your Own Victorian Portrait: Workshop
 Thu at 2pm - 5pm,
 Wednesbury Museum & Art Gallery, WS10 7DF.
 Call 0121 556 0683

Active Afternoons: Workshop
 Mon at 2pm - 4pm, Tue at 2pm - 4pm, £1
 Moseley Old Hall, Fordhouses, Wolverhampton, WV10 7HY.
 Call 01902 782808

Fun And Games
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 Wednesbury Museum & Art Gallery, WS10 7DF.
 Call 0121 556 0683

At The Movies: Workshop
 Sat at 2pm - 5pm, £2
 Wednesbury Museum & Art Gallery, WS10 7DF.
 Call 0121 556 0683

Poppie Party Days
 Fri at 11am - 3pm,
 Haden Hill House Museum, Cradley Heath, B64 7JU.
 Call 01384 569444

Bug Hotel: Workshop
 Fri at 11am - 3pm, £2
 Kinver Edge and the Rock Houses, Stourbridge, DY7 6DL.
 Call 01384 872553

Parachutes And Planes: Workshop
 Mon at 11.30am - 3.30pm, Tue at 11.30am - 3.30pm, £1
 Royal Air Force Museum, Cosford, Shifnal, TF11 8UP.
 Call 01902 376200

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Celebrating 20 years of V in style



Returning heroes Kasabian are ready to rock the V stage at Weston Park for the 20 anniversary festival

THE V Festival is pulling out all the stops for its 20th year anniversary.

More than 150,000 music lovers will head to the festival's two sites at Staffordshire's Weston Park and Chelmsford's Highlands Park, where a host of musical heavyweights will be celebrating the festival's second decade in style this weekend.

Global platinum-selling artist Calvin Harris and popular festival rockers Kasabian are top of the bill.

The line-up also includes Sam Smith, Paloma Faith, Ellie Goulding, The Script, Hozier, George Ezra, Olly Murs, James Bay, Stereophonics, Clean Bandit, Sir Tom Jones, Nero, Jessie Ware, Sigma, and Ella Eyre.

They will line up with a host of other star names across four stages.

The popular Glee Club Comedy Tent is returning with top acts including Russell Kane, Frankie Boyle, Seann Walsh and Matt Richardson.

The festival's northern site was originally in Leeds but moved to Weston Park, near Albrighton, in 1999 when Stereophonics also featured, alongside headlining fellow Welsh rockers Manic Street Preachers and soul legend James Brown.

Festival director Simon Moran said: "It is incredible to think what V has achieved in two decades."

For more information visit the www.vfestival.com website.



All Shook Up over Elvis

NEW musical Love Me Tender was created by the producers of Hairspray, Jersey Boys and West Side Story and is a feel-good show featuring Elvis Presley's greatest hits.

Starring 1980s pop star Mica Paris and former EastEnders Shaun Williamson, the story is set in small town 1950s America, where a guitar-playing, hip-swivelling stranger rides in on his motorbike and gets the locals All Shook Up.

Is he The Devil in Disguise or could he be headed for Heartbreak Hotel, but for Natalie, the love-struck, tomboy mechanic, it really is Now or Never.

Packed with 25 of the best loved songs by The King himself, Love Me Tender, is a funny and moving tale of hope and the healing qualities of rock 'n' roll.

Mica Paris says: "I think the thing I loved about Love Me Tender was the story. It's really clever. The story is not about Elvis, particularly. It's more of a comedy. It's all about young love, unrequited love and mature love."

"The story is what made me fall for it. Sylvia my character is so me, it's me with an American accent. It's almost like the people were thinking of me when they wrote it."

The music must also have been a draw? "Oh yeah, for sure. It's packed with great songs. Elvis was a gospel guy in the beginning and it works for me. The minute I started singing the soundtrack, it sounded perfect. It felt great."

Love Me Tender will be staged at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from Monday to Saturday, August 24 to 29.

Black Country rock band's debut ready

HOTLY-TIPPED Black Country rockers EofE have announced details of their first album.

The Dudley band will release their self-titled debut on October 9 through Cream Records following a year of relentless touring.

The release comes off the back of the group's performance at Download Festival earlier this year and will feature all of their singles released to date.

EofE have toured with Glamour Of The Kill and supported McBusted at the LG Arena. Fronted by singer Tom Harris, the band's sound has been described as thunderous stadium rock with informative pop melodies. For more information see www.eofe.com website.

Keep eyes open for The Fratellis

GLASWEGIAN trio The Fratellis are back and heading to Birmingham's O2 Academy tonight (Thursday) to launch their new album Eyes Wide, Tongue Tied.

The band is looking forward to showcasing its latest material. Frontman Jon Fratelli said: "We had a record out two years ago, so it does not feel like we have been away that long. We are looking forward to going out and playing the songs."

Eyes Wide, Tongue Tied, the band's first since third studio album We Need Medicine in 2013, was completed in two weeks with high energy tracks similar to hits Chelsea Dagger and Whistle For The Choir.

Bolan tribute born to boogie at Robin

NEXT month marks what would have been glam rock star Marc Bolan's 68th birthday, and also the 38th anniversary of his death in a car crash, aged 29.

The corkscrew-haired frontman of T Rex has become a 70s icon and the timeless quality of his good time boogie music continues to win new fans.

Tribute band T Rextasy, led by Bolan devotee Danielz, have now been gigging longer than the original T Rex. They return to the Black Country to play the Robin 2 in Bilston on Saturday, August 29.

Tickets cost £13 in advance or £15 on the door. See www.theobin.co.uk or call 01902 401211.

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The Star Wars attraction at Madame Tussauds, London

Capital gain for families thanks to a range of great attractions

MY daughter Rachel, 14, and son Matthew, 12, had never been to the 'big smoke', so when the opportunity arose to spend some quality time in Londinium, they were thrilled.

Travelling by train is, in my opinion, the best option. Book online early and you can save a small fortune, reserving a seat in the process – an absolute must with regular trains from the likes of Wolverhampton, Birmingham, Shrewsbury and Telford.

Catching the train at Wolverhampton, we arrived at Euston station within two hours and transferred to St James's Park Tube Station directly opposite our hotel – the stunning five-star Conrad London St James.

Sitting on the doorstep of Westminster, Big Ben and Buckingham Palace, not only

By Paul Naylor

does it have a prime location, but also comes with chic design and wonderful service.

Visitors can enjoy a distinctive, locally sourced selection of culinary delights at the Blue Boar restaurant. And then there is the elegant Emmeline's Lounge, ideal for afternoon tea.

There is complimentary WiFi and Nespresso machines in every room and, as we were executive floor guests, complimentary breakfast and other treats throughout the day. Rachel and Matthew had never seen anything quite like it.

In around five minutes, we had walked past Westminster Abbey, Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament, crossing Westminster Bridge with the London Eye prominent in view. The South Bank is vibrant, with tourists enjoying a bite to eat with a

fabulous vista. Many, like us, were there to see pre-booked attractions. First on the list, The London Dungeon.

Even Matthew, who can be a little hesitant with such scary stuff, thought it was great fun. Rachel particularly enjoyed the 'public lynching' we endured at the end. A short walk and we were at our next venue. Sea Life London Aquarium is home to one of Europe's largest collections of marine life from around the globe.

New for 2015, Sea Dragon Kingdom has some of the ocean's most weird and wonderful fish and intrepid adventurers can follow a fun Lego-based trail with a free deep sea explorer activity pack, helping to find missing equipment hidden amongst the sharks, starfish and shoals of bright tropical fish.

Towards the end of the attraction, I enjoyed the history of London unfolding in the new Thames Walk. Our final visit of the

day was to the all-new Shrek's Adventure London. Based on the popular Dreamworks animated characters from the Shrek movies, plus Kung Fu Panda and Madagascar, it combines a brilliant 4D bus ride/flight to the kingdom of Far, Far Away and a walking tour of the fantasy land.

On returning to London from the fairytale kingdom, visitors can have photos with Shrek and friends before exiting through a shop laden with 'Shrektastic' goodies.

The summer evening allowed us plenty of opportunity for further sightseeing, including a stop off at Nelson's Column and Buckingham Palace. We returned to the Conrad, ready to take on our next day's fun outing to Madame Tussauds.

I recommend going to London with your children and experience for yourself the range of great attractions. You might knock a few years off your own age in doing so.

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Sunday 13 September | 7.30pm | £18
JULIAN SMITH
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Friday 18 September | 7.30pm | £18
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CHOICE



Big Blue Live (BBC1, 7pm)
New series. Matt Baker, Liz Bonnin and Steve Backshall present a three-part series observing the wide variety of sea creatures that gather in California's Monterey Bay, including many endangered species. Liz discovers why the area attracts so many animals, Steve goes in search of humpback whales and Matt watches a shoal of 25,000 sardines. Plus, Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall investigates the conservation of endangered species, and looks at the history of whaling. Featuring contributions from scientists working at local research centres.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.40** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** BBC News. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Live Formula 1: Belgian Grand Prix. Coverage from the Circuit de Spa-Francorchamps (Start-time 1.00pm). **3.30** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.00** The Great British Bake Off. (R) **5.00** Songs of Praise. **5.35** BBC News. **5.50** Regional Programme.
6.00 **Countryfile**. Matt Baker and Anita Rani visit Powis castle, taking a tour of the gardens and finding out about a locally brewed beer made with honey. Matt also climbs 40 feet in the air to prune Britain's biggest yew hedge, while Anita meets volunteers delivering locally grown fruit and vegetables, including Weather for the Week Ahead.
7.00 **Big Blue Live**. New series. Matt Baker, Liz Bonnin and Steve Backshall present a three-part series observing the wide variety of sea creatures that gather in California's Monterey Bay, including many endangered species. Liz discovers why the area attracts so many animals, Steve goes in search of humpback whales and Matt watches a shoal of 25,000 sardines. Plus, Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall investigates the conservation of endangered species, and looks at the history of whaling. Featuring contributions from scientists working at local research centres.
8.00 **Casualty**. Part two of two. Max and Zoe's wedding day arrives, but someone has developed cold feet. Medical drama, starring Jamie Davis and Sunetra Sarker.
9.00 **Partners in Crime**. Part two of three. Tommy and Tuppence feel certain they have identified the spy – only for their prime suspect to turn up dead. They both have different ideas about who killed him.
10.00 BBC News.
10.20 Regional Programme.
10.30 **Match of the Day 2**. Mark Chapman reviews the day's Premier League action, featuring West Bromwich Albion v Chelsea, Everton v Manchester City and Watford v Southampton.
11.40 **Film: Eurotrip**. (2004) Comedy, starring Scott Mechlowicz.
1.10 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.15** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 The Instant Gardener. (R) **6.45** The Instant Gardener. (R) **7.30** Countryfile. (R) **8.30** Gardeners' World. (R) **9.00** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.00** Live Athletics: World Championships. **3.00** Live Triathlon. **4.15** Equestrian: European Jumping Championships. **5.15** Triathlon.
6.00 **Rugby Union**. France v England. Highlights of the Test match at the Stade de France, as the sides continued their preparations for next month's World Cup. (R)
7.00 **Athletics: World Championships Highlights**. Gabby Logan presents action from the second day at the Bird's Nest Stadium in Beijing, including the conclusion of the heptathlon and the 100m final.
8.00 **Dragons' Den**. The panel considers a business proposal involving vegetables in disguise, and is asked by a scientist to help him demonstrate his plans by mixing up a strange concoction.
9.00 **Odyssey**. Peter finally makes contact with Yusuf Qasim while Ruby is forced to come to terms with the fact that her mission is not yet complete.
9.45 **Country Strife: Abz on the Farm**. The couple's plans seem doomed when their mortgage falls through. They get back on track by buying a smallholding at auction, but find their new home has plenty of problems.
10.15 **Family Guy**. Meg convinces Brian to take her SATs for her, but when she receives poor exam results everyone begins to question how smart the dog really is.
10.35 **Family Guy**. Peter takes up smoking, and is quickly approached by an advertising executive to be the face of a new campaign – for an anti-smoking group.
11.00 **Family Guy**. Peter and his friends fight to save their favourite booth in the Drunken Clam after it is claimed by another group of men.
11.20 **Film: The Ring**. (2002) A journalist investigates teenage deaths linked to a videotape, which is rumoured to cause the demise of anyone who watches it. Horror remake, with Naomi Watts and Martin Henderson.
1.05 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **2.00** Sir Stanley Matthews: The Wizard of Wembley. (R) **2.30** Live Athletics: World Championships. **4.30** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Animals. **7.35** 7.05 Animals. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Super 4. (R) **7.45** Fish Hooks. **8.00** Young Justice: Invasion. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.25** ITV News; Weather. **12.35** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.40** **Film: Smokey and the Bandit II**. (1980) Road comedy, starring Burt Reynolds. **3.35** **Film: The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement**. (2004) Family comedy sequel, starring Anne Hathaway. **5.45** Catchphrase.
6.25 **Regional Programme**; Weather.
6.45 **ITV News**; Weather.
7.00 **Animal Mums**. New series. Nature documentary revealing how animals cope with the demands of raising their offspring. The first episode features gorillas, rhinos, highland cows and newborn lambs.
8.00 **Midsomer Murders**. The launch of the latest sparkling wine by Midsomer Vineae Winery falls flat when critic Nadia Simons gives it a scathing review, then guests sampling the vintage start to collapse. Owner William Carnarvon suspects the Farmers' Wives Association of trying to destroy his business, while his wife Diana frets over her mother Matilda, one of the victims. Pathologist Kate reveals the drink was laced with slug poison, but how is the attack connected to the death of a child in a hit-and-run? Barnaby and Nelson are called in to investigate. Neil Dudgeon and Gwilym Lee star in the mystery drama, with Claire Bloom, Mark Bonnar and Rosie Cavaliero. (R)
10.00 **ITV News**; Weather.
10.15 **Man and Beast with Martin Clunes**. Part two of two. The actor meets dog owners in Tokyo, learns the truth behind snake-charming in Nepal and finds out how birds are used for gambling in Thailand. (R)
11.15 **56 Up**. Continuing the 2012 update in the landmark documentary series, following the stories of a group of participants whose lives have been chronicled since 1964. (R)
12.15 Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.20 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.45** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.10** The Chateau Impney Hill Climb. **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Amazing Spaces: Shed of the Year 2015. (R) **1.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.55** The Simpsons. (R) **2.25** The Simpsons. (R) **2.55** The Simpsons. (R) **3.25** Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. (R) **4.30** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.35** A Place in the Sun: Home or Away.
6.30 **Channel 4 News**.
7.00 **Return of the Black Death: Secret History**. One of the most devastating pandemics in human history, the Black Death swept through London in 1348, killing old and young, rich and poor, within days of their first symptoms. Received wisdom has long suggested the culprit was bubonic plague, spread by the fleas of infected rats, and an unexpected discovery made by Crossrail engineers working on a shaft on the edge of London's Charterhouse Square in 2013 provides a new insight into how the disease passed from host to host. This documentary follows experts from a range of disciplines as they pick through the evidence, reveal why the disease killed on such a large scale, and discuss how it still poses a threat today. (R)
8.00 **Time Crashers**. New series. Tony Robinson presents a show in which 10 celebrities experience life in different eras. In the first episode, they must work as servants in an Elizabethan manor house.
9.00 **Film: Les Misérables**. (2012) Premiere. A former prisoner tries to lead an honest life in post-revolutionary France, despite being pursued everywhere by a fanatical police inspector. He promises a poverty-stricken factory worker that he will raise her child, a relationship that gives his life new meaning, but both of them are drawn into an uprising against the reinstated monarchy. Musical, starring Hugh Jackman and Anne Hathaway.
12.10 **Film: Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps**. (2010) **2.25** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.35** Jamie's Money Saving Meals. (R) **5.00** Selling Houses with Amanda Lamb. (R) **5.55** How I Met Your Mother. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.15** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.20** Pip Ahoy! (R) **6.35** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.45** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.00** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.10** Paw Patrol. **7.25** Little Princess. (R) **7.40** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **7.50** Zack and Quack. **8.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.15** Jelly Jamm. (R) **8.30** LazyTown. (R) **8.55** Dora and Friends. (R) **9.25** SpongeBob SquarePants. **10.00** Football League Tonight. (R) **11.30** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.25** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.20** Film: Michael. (1996) Fantasy comedy, starring John Travolta and Andie MacDowell. Edited for language and violence. **3.20** Film: Pete's Dragon. (1977) Musical fantasy, starring Jim Dale. **5.25** Film: The Sword in the Stone. (1963) Disney animated adventure, with the voice of Rickie Sorenson.
7.00 **Cricknet on 5**. England v Australia. Action from the fourth day of the series-concluding Fifth Test, which comes from the Oval. Presented by Mark Nicholas, who also commentates alongside Michael Vaughan, Geoffrey Boycott and Simon Hughes.
7.55 **5 News Weekend**.
8.00 **Police Interceptors Unleashed with Vinnie Jones**. Officers take on a crook who has devised a crafty scheme to get something for nothing, while PC Barry Peach is confronted by a foul-mouthed pensioner. The teams also tries to catch a pair of four-legged runaways heading in the direction of a busy motorway. Vinnie Jones presents.
9.00 **Film: Snitch**. (2013) Premiere. A man learns his estranged son is facing 10 years in prison for a crime he did not commit, so makes a deal with the authorities. In return for the charges being dropped, he will go undercover as an informant in a drug trafficking operation, putting his life on the line to bring the cartel down. Crime thriller, starring Dwayne Johnson and Susan Sarandon.
11.15 **Film: Fight Club**. (1999) A disillusioned office worker and his mysterious friend start a club where frustrated men vent their anger in bare-knuckle fighting. Drama, starring Brad Pitt and Edward Norton.
1.50 SuperCasino. **3.10** Under the Dome. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **5.45** Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Formula 1: The Belgian Grand Prix – Highlights **8.00** Top Gear **9.00** **Film**: Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time (2010) **10.50** Top Coppers **11.20** Family Guy **12.05** American Dad! **12.25** Family Guy **12.45** Top Coppers **1.15** Don't Tell the Bride **2.15** Dead Air **2.35** **Film**: Old Dogs (2009) **4.00** Close
BBC Four
7.00 BBC Proms Sunday Symphony **8.05** When Worsley Met Roy: Sir Roy Strong at **8.09.05** Darcey Bussell's Looking for Audrey **10.05** Sinatra: All or Nothing at All **12.05** Juliette Binoche: Antigone at the Barbican **1.35** When Worsley Met Roy: Sir Roy Strong at **2.35** Andrew Marr on Churchill: Blood, Sweat and Oil Paint **3.35** Close
ITV2
11.50 Take Me Out **1.20** The X Factor: Oily & Caroline's Top 10 **2.20** **Film**: Homebound II: Lost in San Francisco (1996) **4.10** You've Been Framed! **5.10** The X Factor: Nick & Rita's Top 10 **6.15** **Film**: Hulk (2003) **9.00** **Film**: The Holiday (2006) **11.40** Safeword **12.30** **Film**: Romy and Michele's High School Reunion (1997) **2.15** Teleshopping **5.45** **ITV2** Nightscreen
ITV3
11.30 Agatha Christie's Marple **3.35** A Touch of Frost **5.40** Inspector Morse **8.00** Cornwall with Caroline Quentin **8.30** Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs **9.00** The Mighty Mississippi with Trevor McDonald **10.00** Birds of a Feather **10.35** Northern Lights **11.35** Agatha Christie's Marple **1.30** Blue Murder **2.45** On the Buses **3.10** **ITV3** Nightscreen
ITV4
6.10 Football's Greatest: Lionel Messi **6.30** Pavn Stars **7.00** Cycling **8.00** Premiership Rugby 7s **9.00** **Film**: Mercury Rising (1998) **11.15** **Film**: Daylight (1996) **1.30** Highway Patrol **2.00** Cycling **3.00** Teleshopping
E4
12.25 Couples Come Dine with Me **2.30** Badshih! Robots **3.35** The Goldbergs **4.30** **Film**: Turner & Hoock (1989) **6.35** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Rude Tube **10.00** Gogglebox **12.10** Tattoo Fixers **1.15** Young, Free & Single **2.20** Rules of Engagement **3.25** Hollyoaks
Film4
11.00 Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days (2012) **1.00** Big Miracle (2012) **3.05** Tooth Fairy (2010) **5.10** Gulliver's Travels (2010) **6.45** The Women (2008) **9.00** Warm Bodies (2013) **10.55** Sinister (2012) **1.05** Don't Look Now (1973)

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Profile for Murder, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A criminal profiler retires to live in California with her family and move on from the horrific crime that ended her career. Her idyllic life is shattered when she discovers the serial killer responsible has escaped from prison and is intent on terrorising her. Thriller, starring Nicki Aycox and Steve Bacic. (2013)

TUESDAY
Deadly Suspicion, Channel 5, 3.20pm
The estranged members of the Darville family are reunited when their patriarch, a prominent politician, is murdered. However, one of them is missing - an unstable daughter who was abandoned in a mental institution years before. When news reaches them that she escaped on the night of the killing, they realise she could be the culprit - and they could be next. Thriller, starring Marilu Henner. (2008)



Gone Baby Gone, Friday, BBC1, 11.35pm

WEDNESDAY
Obsessed, BBC1, 11.35pm
An executive with a successful job and a happy family life finds his world crumbling around him when a temporary worker is assigned to his office. The new arrival becomes fixated on him, going to desperate lengths to seduce him. Thriller, starring Idris Elba, Beyonce Knowles and Ali Larter. (2009)

THURSDAY
Deadly Daycare, Channel 5, 3.20pm
A divorcee suspects a daycare centre of mistreating her young daughter. When the girl's increasingly awkward behaviour arouses suspicion, the mother plants a hidden camera on the premises. Thriller, with Kayla Ewell. (2014)

FRIDAY
Gone Baby Gone, BBC1, 11.35pm
A tough Boston neighbourhood becomes the centre of a media circus when a four-year-old girl goes missing. A private detective is reluctantly drawn into the case when the child's aunt hires him to find her, and while investigating around the area where he grew up, he uncovers secrets and deceit surrounding the disappearance. Drama, with Casey Affleck. (2007)

Katie and guests hit all the right notes

Apparently, just as a performance is about to begin, acclaimed British double bassist Chi-Chi Nwanoku feels as if she's taking her marks at the starting blocks on an athletics track.

Then, when the conductor's baton comes down, Nwanoku is straight out of the blocks, working towards the finishing line.

Actually, this admission from the London-based musician of Nigerian and Irish descent isn't that surprising, because from the age of eight, Chi-Chi was destined for an international career as a 100-metre sprinter.

At 16, she narrowly missed qualifying for the 1972 Munich Olympics, and two years later was on track for the next Games in Montreal.

Then disaster struck - a knee injury meant that she could never again compete at a national level. Devastated, she returned to school, and thankfully discovered that fate had something positive in store for her - music.

Nowadays, Nwanoku is established as principal bass with the Orchestra of

the Age of Enlightenment, as well as being a chamber-music performer and professor of double-bass studies at London's Trinity College of Music.

She is also the host of a weekly requests programme on BBC Radio 3 and was a jury member of BBC2's Classical Star.

Tonight, she joins Katie Derham for this week's jam-packed edition of weekly magazine show Proms Extra.

The pair will be joined by baritone Roderick Williams, who may be feeling a little sleepy after performing Bach's much-loved Magnificat, Mass in G minor and Brandenburg Concerto No. 2 alongside the BBC Singers and the Academy of Ancient Music during last night's Late Night Prom at the Royal Albert Hall.

Williams will also be looking forward to his next Proms appearance on September 11 when he is taking to the stage alongside conductor Sir Simon Rattle and the Vienna Philharmonic to sing part of Elgar's intoxicating The Dream of Gerontius.

Among the other Proms highlights up for discussion tonight are Bach's solo

violin works, which were performed so memorably by violinist Alina Ibragimova at the end of July.

Katie, Chi-Chi and Roderick also look back on the National Youth Orchestra's annual visit to the Proms a fortnight ago where they focused on Mahler's bitterly beautiful Ninth Symphony.

Their concert also opened with the world premiere of Tansy Davies's Re-greening, a celebration of spring written specially as a complement to Mahler's aforementioned work.

Finally, there is footage and discussion of Daniel Barenboim's West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, who performed at the Albert Hall on Tuesday in a concert that was broadcast last night on BBC4.

Barenboim took to the piano to play a trio of challenging pieces - Beethoven's Triple Concerto, Schoenberg's Chamber Symphony and Tchaikovsky's Fourth Symphony.

And if all that wasn't enough, David Owen Norris once again gets 'Inside the Score' - delving deeper into the some of the music heard at the 121st season of the Proms.



Katie Derham features in Proms Extra 2015, Saturday, BBC2, 7pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Travel Guides
ITV, 9pm
The tourists stay closer to home as they sample what the Lake District has to offer. The Boyles from Dorset are amazed by the jaw-dropping scenery, but soon question if a small caravan is enough to accommodate their lively brood of kids, while a trip to Keswick pencil museum does nothing to convince Honor Chapman-Blackwell and her boyfriend Jonjo of the area's charms. Simon and Jayne Brearley face a battle persuading son Ben of the pleasures of hiking up a hill, while a trip to a local climbing centre nearly spells disaster for model Riah. Last in the series.

Muslim Drag Queens
Channel 4, 10pm
Ian McKellen narrates this First Cut documentary providing unprecedented insight into the UK's clandestine gay Asian community, which provides a vital lifeline and haven for young men who are unable to publicly reconcile their sexuality with their cultural identity and traditions. The film focuses on the stories of three of the 100 to 150 Muslim drag queens who face the seemingly insurmountable challenge of gaining acceptance and tolerance within their own communities.

TUESDAY
New Tricks
BBC1, 9pm
Ted leads an investigation into the apparent suicide of a city trader who was embroiled in the cut-throat world of London's financial district in the 1980s. As the team delve deeper into the macho fraternity of 'The Wolfpack', they find a darker side to the debauchery, secret hand signals and all-nighters that bonded the traders together - including a strict hierarchy that might be worth killing for. Meanwhile, Steve tries to learn some tricks of the trade, amid his own financial crisis.

WEDNESDAY
Witnesses
Channel 4, 10pm
Kaz Gorbier is now in police custody, seemingly removing the immediate threat, but the mystery of who has been placing the exhumed bodies in various show-homes remains unsolved. Paul and Sandra push their abilities to the limit as they work to achieve closure, and as their investigation draws closer to its conclusion, dark secrets from Le TrEport's

past begin to resurface - with devastating consequences.

THURSDAY
Stephen Fry's Central America
ITV, 9pm

It's seven years since Stephen Fry embarked on an epic trip to each of the USA's 50 states for the BBC. Frankly, it was a bit of a rushed job, with some destinations appearing for just a few moments each. Hopefully, this tour will be a little more in-depth. This time, as the title has already revealed to you, he is sampling the delights available south of the border, beginning with a trip to Mexico. Stephen starts on the Sante Bridge, which separates El Paso in Texas from Ciudad Juarez, an important transit point for drug cartels - and a place regarded as one of Mexico's most dangerous cities. En route

to Chihuahua, he meets some of the area's cowboys.

FRIDAY
Ripper Street
BBC1, 9pm
Long Susan has convinced the world her solicitor Capshaw shot Reid and was solely responsible for the train crash, and while the inspector remains in a coma Drake and Jackson struggle to cope. Meanwhile, a destructive gang of youths unleashes hell upon the streets by night, murdering a pub landlord. The trail leads detectives into the heartland of one of the city's oldest trades - the London Breweries - where conflicted loyalties reign and grief and anger create a potent concoction.

BBQ Champ
ITV, 9pm
Myleene Klass turns up the heat as the competition reaches its mouth-watering finale, and you have to hand it to her - it must have taken a phenomenal amount of effort to remain so slim while being surrounded by a seemingly endless array of tasty treats. She faces temptation one last time tonight, as the four remaining contestants pull out all the stops in the battle to be crowned BBQ Champ 2015, and take home a cash prize of £25,000.

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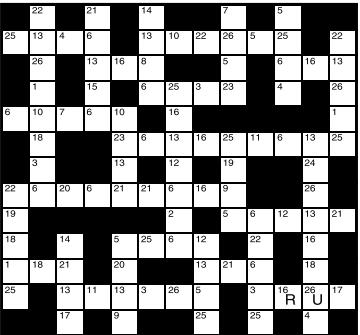
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BRAIN GYM No.339

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

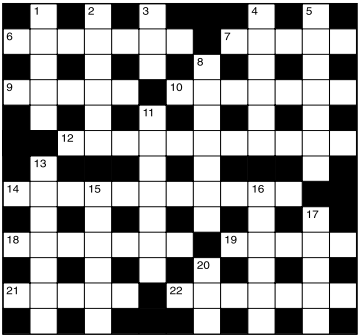
U	A	N	Y	S	M	E	T	L	Z	R	B	Q
P	C	K	O	J	H	G	X	W	D	I	V	F

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

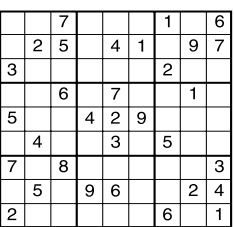
- Across**
- 6. See 22 Across
 - 7. See 21 Across
 - 9. Very resistant to a cry of disgust (5)
 - 10. Case for barrister's clothing (7)
 - 12. Screen idol on the decline? (7-4)
 - 14. Sorts out the confusion and submits a requisition (4,2,5)
 - 18. See 19 Across
 - 19 & 18Ac. He's expected to disclose liquid assets (5-7)
 - 21 & 7Ac. The telling phrases of the boxing reporter? (5,5)
 - 22. 6Ac & 11Dn. Do his schemes have urbane rusticity? (4,3,7,7)
- Down**
- 1. Two companies getting a commodity from Africa (5)
 - 2. Imagine being reformed without one - it's quite puzzling (6)
 - 3. Equip with some of the nuclear missiles (3)
 - 4. Feels the absence of the girls (6)
 - 5. One with a big bill could be in place (7)
 - 8. They refuse to permit flags (7)
 - 11. See 22 Across (7)
 - 13. Peculiar piece of bric-a-brac given to us (7)
 - 15. Change over a power regulator (6)
 - 16. She's embraced by Pamela in ecstasy (6)
 - 17. Pretend to sound indistinct (5)
 - 20. A greyhound, maybe, to follow (3)



Quick Clues:

- Across**
- 6. To the letter (7)
 - 7. Drive back (5)
 - 9. Vacillate (5)
 - 10. Abstemious (7)
 - 12. One of the terms (11)
 - 14. Remedying (11)
 - 18. Stealthily (7)
 - 19. Scatter (5)
 - 21. Jocund (5)
 - 22. Bias (7)
- Down**
- 1. Vie (5)
 - 2. Decorous (6)
 - 3. Method (3)
 - 4. Dishonesty (6)
 - 5. Blessing (7)
 - 8. Quarantine (7)
 - 11. Sanction (7)
 - 13. Silence (2,5)
 - 15. Coaches (6)
 - 16. Election (6)
 - 17. Creature (5)
 - 20. Charge (3)

Sudoku



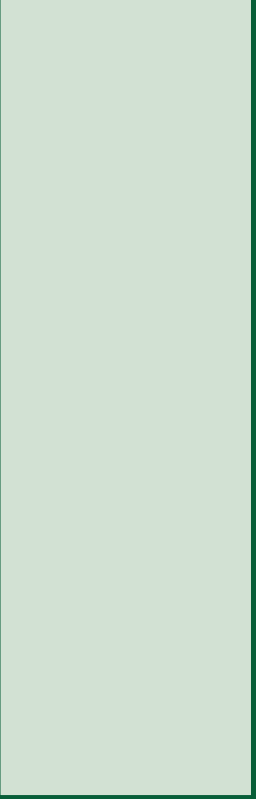
Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

4	1	3	6	7	5	8	2	9
2	5	8	9	3	1	6	7	4
7	9	6	8	2	4	1	3	5
6	8	2	1	5	3	4	9	7
9	4	7	7	8	2	3	5	6
5	3	7	4	9	6	2	8	1
3	2	4	5	6	7	9	1	8
1	7	9	2	4	8	6	5	3
8	6	5	3	1	9	7	4	2

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Wine-taster; 7 Inner; 8 New leaf; 10 Hastened; 11 Fair; 13 Racial; 15 Violet; 17 Wool; 18 Mirthful; 21 Lie down; 22 Rols; 23 Daisy chain. Down: 1 Wants; 2 Norseman; 3 Tender; 4 Saw; 5 Eyeball; 6 Withdrawal; 9 First-class; 12 Victoria; 14 Cholera; 16 Picnic; 19 Felon; 20 Tots. QUICK - Across: 1 Conscience; 7 Exact; 8 Mariner; 10 External; 11 Ramp; 13 Renown; 15 Meaner; 17 Both; 18 Constant; 21 Emblems; 22 Bravo; 23 Despondent. Down: 1 Chart; 2 Nut-brown; 3 Combat; 4 Earn; 5 Contain; 6 Penetrable; 9 Reparation; 12 Feasible; 14 Notable; 16 Poison; 19 Apart; 20 Help.

Thinking space



Quiz

- 1. What was the nickname of jazz pianist Ferdinand Morton?
- 2. What was the imaginary flying island in Gulliver's Travels?
- 3. Who are the feuding families in Romeo and Juliet?
- 4. What is a Sam Browne?
- 5. What was the nickname of Louis Armstrong?
- 6. What does the Sikh name 'Singh' mean?
- 7. In which Bavarian village is a famous passion play performed?
- 8. Which German battleship sunk HMS Hood?
- 9. In what year was the Reuter news agency founded?
- 10. What is the professional organisation of British magicians called?

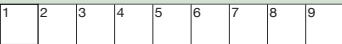
Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 M; 2 Quasimodo; 3 Helvetia; 4 Grand Canal; 5 R-101; 6 2,400 miles; 7 Cain; 8 Cancer; 9 Excalibur; 10 King George III. Niner: OUTSPREAD

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

17493 gives an animal,
356698 gives a bird,
423398 gives a fish.



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Detached has £189,950 price tag **Spacious home with a single-bed annexe**



THIS three-bedroomed detached home in Badminton Close, Dudley is full of potential.

The property with an extra driveway suitable for van/caravan/holiday home parking or as space for a possible extension. It is for sale through Swinscoes at £189,950.

It has a porch, an entrance hallway, a lounge with a feature fireplace and wood-effect laminate flooring, an open plan kitchen/diner with modern white units, wood-effect working surfaces, splash-back and floor tiling, a conservatory, three bedrooms and a family bathroom, double glazing, gas central heating and a well presented rear garden and tandem garage.

For further information contact Swinscoes on 01902 672274 or visit www.swinscoes.co.uk



A SPACIOUS three/four bed house with a one-bedroomed annexe, Hernes Nest at Bewdley is for sale through Phipps & Pritchard at £395,000 with no chain.

It has an entrance hall, a WC, a living room with a Limestone fire surround with a living flame gas fire, a dining room, breakfast kitchen with a breakfast island, a utility/laundry, conservatory, three bedrooms (one en-suite and one with a dressing area), bathroom, garage, annexe with a lobby, shower room and a bedroom. Call 01299 822060 or visit www.phippsandpritchard.co.uk



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Crab Lane Willenhall REDUCED



- 3 Bedroom Detached house
 - Fantastic potential
 - 1870 sq yards plot
 - EPC - D, Large driveway
- OFFERS AROUND: **£330,000**
Viewing:

Dillways Lane Willenhall REDUCED



- Charming Middle Terrace Bungalow
 - Popular Location close to local amenities and transport links
 - UPVC Double Glazing
- OFFERS AROUND: **£105,000**
Viewing:

Poplar Street Wolverhampton NEW



- 3 Bedroom Mid terrace
 - 2 Reception rooms
 - Bathroom
 - Double glazing
- OFFERS AROUND: **£75,000**
Viewing:

Stubington Close Willenhall REDUCED



- Detached Residence with No Upward Chain
 - Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
 - Reception Hall
 - EPC Rating TBC, Lounge
- OFFERS AROUND: **£125,000**
Viewing:

Willenhall Road Willenhall NEW



- 3 Bedroom Detached House
 - Requires some updating
 - Lounge
 - Kitchen, Gardens
- Offers Over **£78,000**
Viewing:

Dimmocks Avenue Bilston NEW



- 3 bedroom semi detached house
 - no upward chain
 - lounge
 - kitchen/diner, offers
- Viewing: **£125,000**

Catherine Road Bilston NEW



- Semi Detached Requiring Improvements
 - No Upward Chain
 - Double Glazing And Central Heating
 - Entrance and Hallway, offers
- Viewing: **£89,950**

Bruford Road Bilston NEW



- End Terrace Residence
 - No Upward chain
 - Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
 - Reception Hall,
- Viewing: **£82,950**

Rough Hills Road Bilston NEW



- Semi Detached
 - No Upwards Chain
 - Porch and Reception Hall
 - Lounge And Conservatory,
- Viewing: **£95,000**

Bay Avenue Bilston



- 4 Bedroom end terraced house
 - Downstairs wc
 - Kitchen
 - EPC-C, Dining area
- OFFERS AROUND: **£150,000**
Viewing:

Bridgewater Drive Bilston NEW



- Link Detached Residence with Further Potential for Extensions (subject to planning permission)
 - No Upward Chain
 - Gas Central Heating & Gas Central Heating
- Offers in the region of **£139,950**
Viewing:

Queen Street Bilston



- 4/5 Bedroom detached house
 - Lounge/diner
 - Breakfast kitchen
 - 2nd reception room
- OFFERS AROUND: **£165,000**
Viewing:

Wellesbourne Drive Bilston



- 4 Bedroom detached house
 - Kitchen
 - Lounge/diner
 - Conservatory
- OFFERS AROUND: **£169,950**
Viewing:

Webb Street Bilston



- Refurbished Semi Detached With further potential to Extended (subject to planning permission)
 - No Upward Chain
 - UPVC Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
- OFFERS AROUND: **£109,950**
Viewing:

Broadmoor Close Bilston



- 3 Bedroom detached house
 - Immaculate condition
 - Entrance porch and hallway
 - Lounge/diner
- OFFERS AROUND: **£135,000**
Viewing:

Hill Street Bilston



- 3 Bedroom modern semi detached house
 - Lounge/diner
 - Modern kitchen
 - Downstairs wc
- OFFERS AROUND: **£125,000**
Viewing:

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Bruford Road Bilston NEW



- Middle Terrace Residence
 - No Upward chain
 - Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
 - Reception Hall,
- Viewing: **£82,950**

Lane Street Bilston NEW



- Detached Bungalow with No Upward Chain
 - Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
 - Porch • Reception Hall
 - Lounge & Cottage Style Kitchen, Offer in the region of
- Viewing: **£190,000**

Upper Ettingshall Road Bilston



- Detached Residence with No Upward Chain
 - Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
 - Reception Hall • Guest WC
 - EPC Rating D, Lounge & Dining Room
- OFFERS AROUND: **£179,950**
Viewing:

Loxdale Sidings Bilston



- 1 Bedroom modern flat
 - No upward chain
 - Lounge
 - Bedroom
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- Extensive Rear Gardens
- No Upward Chain

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- Garage
- Four Bedrooms
- Refitted Bathroom

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- Open plan Kitchen
- Dining room
- Bathroom
- Guest WC

£200,000

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- Superb Refitted Breakfast Kitchen
- Lounge
- Dining Area
- Refitted Family Bathroom

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Bute Close, Willenhall

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- Two Bedrooms
- Gas Central Heating
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- Off Road Parking
- Front & Rear Garden
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- Garage
- Front and Rear Gardens
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- Viewing Essential

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- Lounge
- Off Road Parking
- Dining Room
- Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms

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- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Additional Sitting Room/Bedroom
- Ground Floor Wet Room
- Three Bedrooms

£135,000

Red Lion Avenue, Norton Canes

- No Upward Chain
- Off Road Parking
- Refitted Modern Kitchen
- Chasewater Grange Nearby
- Three Bedrooms
- Refitted Bathroom

Offers in Excess of £125,000

Ida Road, Walsall

- Three Bedrooms
- Planning Permission Approved to Become Flats
- Semi Detached
- Close to Walsall Town Centre
- Investment Opportunity
- Two Reception Rooms
- Front & Rear Gardens

£120,000

Irvine Road, Bloxwich

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Corner Plot
- Garage to Rear
- Two Reception Rooms
- No Upward Chain
- Viewing Essential

£115,000

Botany Road, Delves

- Three Bedroom End Terrace
- Ideal Investment/First Time Buy
- Entrance Porch/Hall
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Downstairs Bathroom

£115,000

Glastonbury Crescent, Bloxwich

- No Upward Chain
- Garage
- Off Road Parking
- Refitted Kitchen
- Lounge
- Three bedrooms

£115,000

Springfields, Rushall

- Three Bedroom End-Terrace
- Kitchen/Diner
- Rear Garden
- Close to Shelfield Academy
- Close to Rushall Primary School
- Viewing Essential

£114,950

Lapwing Close, Watermead Grange

- No Upward Chain
- Sought After Watermead Grange Development
- Two Double Bedrooms
- En-Suite
- Fitted Kitchen with appliances

Offers in Excess of £100,000

Lichfield Road, Rushall

- No Upward Chain
- Desirable Location
- Close to Walsall Town Centre
- Communal Parking
- Delightful Communal Gardens
- Viewing Essential

£100,000

Rough Brook Road, Rushall

- Show Home Style Two Bedroom First Floor Apartment
- Lounge/Dining Room
- Fitted Kitchen including Integrated Appliances
- Master Bedroom with En-Suite Shower Room
- Bathroom

£100,000

Terret Close, Walsall

- Modern Two Bedroom Apartment
- Located Close to Walsall Town Centre
- Secure Gated Car Park
- Allocated Parking Space
- Secure Communal Entrance
- Lounge with Two Juliet Balconies

Offers in Excess of £90,000

Glastonbury Crescent, Bloxwich

- No Upward Chain
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- Refitted Kitchen
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- Rear Garden
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 • Low Maintenance Living
 • Communal Gardens
 • Close to Walsall Town Centre
 • No Upward Chain
 • Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
 • Modernised Victorian House Conversion

£240,000



Green Lane, Shelfield
 • No Upward Chain
 • Five Bedrooms
 • Two Reception Rooms
 • Extended Kitchen
 • Garage
 • Low Maintenance Rear Garden

£240,000



Field Road, Bloxwich
 • Three Double Bedrooms
 • Detached
 • Extended Kitchen/Diner
 • Off Road Parking & Garage
 • Superb Rear Garden
 • Two Reception Rooms

Offers in Excess of £240,000



Norton Road, Pelsall
 • Three Bedroom, Detached Bungalow
 • Kitchen/Diner
 • Overlooking Pelsall Common
 • Ample Off Road Parking
 • Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
 • No Upward Chain

£199,950



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Offers in Excess of £195,000



Lord Street, Palfrey
 • Three Bedroom, Detached
 • Off Road Parking
 • Garage
 • Two Reception Rooms
 • Kitchen/Diner
 • No Upward Chain

£165,000



Lichfield Road, Shelfield
 • Two Bedroom, Detached Bungalow
 • No Upward Chain
 • Attractive Rear Garden
 • Block Paved Driveway
 • Excellent Transport Links
 • Refitted Kitchen/Conservatory

£164,950



Pealsford Road, Pelsall
 • Three Bedroom, Semi-Deatched
 • Utility Room
 • Two Reception Rooms
 • Fitted Kitchen/Diner
 • Downstairs W.C.
 • Viewing Essential

£160,000



REDUCED

Wrekin View, Shire Oak
 • Three Bedroom, Semi-Detached
 • Close to Shire Oak Academy
 • Through Lounge
 • Refitted Breakfast Kitchen
 • Attractive Front & Rear Gardens
 • Garage
 • Sought After Location
 • Viewing Essential



£145,000



REDUCED

John Riley Drive, Willenhall
 • Three Bedroom Detached
 • Extended Entrance Hall
 • Lounge
 • Fitted Kitchen with Integrated Appliance
 • Family Bathroom
 • Integral Garage
 • Front & Rear Gardens
 • Off Road Parking



£136,995



REDUCED

Norton East Road, Norton Canes
 • Three Bedroom, Semi-Detached
 • Off Road Parking
 • Front & Rear Gardens
 • Close to Chasewater Park
 • Breakfast Kitchen
 • Easy Access to M6 Toll
 • Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
 • No Upward Chain



£130,000



Chatsworth Crescent, Rushall
 • Two Double Bedrooms
 • Semi-Detached
 • En-suite to the Master
 • Recently Refurbished
 • Refitted Kitchen/Diner
 • Viewing Essential

£129,950



Oakridge Close, Willenhall
 • Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
 • Off Road Parking
 • Kitchen/Diner
 • Cul-de-Sac Location
 • Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
 • Viewing Essential

Offers in Excess of £126,000



Tannery Court, Walsall
 • Two Double Bedrooms, End Town House
 • 10 Year NHBC Guarantee
 • Located Close to Walsall Town Centre
 • Off Road Parking
 • Brand New Development
 • Fitted Gloss Kitchen/Diner

£125,000



Peake Road, Brownhills
 • Three Bedroom, Mid-Terrace
 • No Upward Chain
 • Two Reception Rooms
 • Off Road Parking
 • Conservatory
 • Recently Installed Gas Central Heating

£110,000



Somerfield Road, Bloxwich
 • Three Bedroom, Mid-Terrace
 • Superb Kitchen/Diner
 • Utility Room
 • Private Rear Garden
 • Rear Access
 • No Upward Chain

£110,000



Littleton Road, Willenhall
 • Three Bedroom, End of Terrace
 • Located Close to New Invention School
 • Overlooking Playing Fields
 • Off Road Parking, Garage
 • No Upward Chain
 • Front & Rear Gardens

£110,000



Mulberry Road, Bloxwich
 • Two Bedroom Modern Town House
 • No Upward Chain
 • Fitted Modern Kitchen
 • Family Bathroom
 • Rear Garden
 • Off Road Parking

£100,000



Moore Road, New Invention
 • Two Bedroom Semi-Detached
 • Off Road Parking & Garage
 • Two Reception Rooms
 • No Upward Chain
 • Utility
 • Front & Rear Gardens
 • Downstairs W.C.
 • Viewing Essential



Offers in Excess of £100,000



Basalt Close, Birchills
 • Two Double Bedroom, Modern Town House
 • Cul-De-Sac Location
 • Off Road Parking
 • Fitted Kitchen
 • Lounge/Diner

£100,000



Revival Street, Bloxwich
 • Two Bedroom, Mid-Terrace
 • No Upward Chain
 • Refitted Kitchen
 • Wet Room
 • Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
 • Delightful Rear Garden

£85,000



West Street, Walsall
 • Two Bedroom, Mid-Terrace
 • Two Reception Rooms
 • Refitted Oak Kitchen
 • No Upward Chain
 • Two Double Bedrooms
 • Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing

£85,000



West Street, Walsall
 • No Upward Chain
 • Two Reception Rooms
 • Fitted Kitchen
 • Ground Floor Bathroom
 • Two Double Bedrooms
 • Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating

Offers in Excess of £80,000



Howdles Lane, Brownhills
 • Three Bedroom, Maisonette
 • Open Plan Living Space
 • Balcony
 • No Upward Chain
 • Ample Car Parking Available
 • Fitted Kitchen
 • Deceptively Spacious
 • Viewing Essential



£78,000



Deermead Court, Birchills
 • Two Bedroom Apartment
 • Secured Entrance
 • Gas Central Heating
 • Double Glazing
 • Open Plan Lounge & Kitchen
 • Master Bedroom with En-Suite

£78,500



Schoolgate Close, Shelfield
 • One Bedroom, Maisonette
 • 50% Shared Ownership
 • Allocated Off Road Parking
 • Close to Local Amenities
 • Spacious Bedroom
 • Viewing Essential

£35,000

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SOLD
 Subject to Contract

Westminster Road, Walsall
 • No Upward Chain
 • Executive Detached Residence
 • Breakfast Kitchen
 • Conservatory
 • Two Reception Rooms
 • Study

£300,000



SOLD
 Subject to Contract

Lichfield Road, Walsall
 • Impressive Extended Four Bedroom Detached
 • Renovated to a High Specification
 • Sought After Location
 • Two Reception Rooms
 • Stunning Open Plan Kitchen/Diner

£280,000



SOLD
 Subject to Contract

Wood Lane Close, Willenhall
 • Detached Dormer Bungalow
 • Four Double Bedrooms
 • Fitted Kitchen/Diner
 • Charming Lounge with Open Fireplace
 • Ground Floor Shower Room
 • First Floor Bathroom

£275,000



SOLD
 Subject to Contract

Mount Road, Walsall
 • Four Bedroom Detached
 • Two Reception Rooms
 • Fitted Breakfast Kitchen with Appliances
 • Utility Room
 • Garage/Study
 • Two En-Suite Bathrooms

£265,000



SOLD
 Subject to Contract

Lambourne Way, Cannock
 • Impressive Executive Detached
 • Four Bedrooms
 • Master Having En-Suite
 • Three Reception Rooms
 • Fitted Breakfast Kitchen
 • Front & Rear Gardens

£250,000



SOLD
 Subject to Contract

Shire Ridge, Walsall
 • Modern Detached
 • Converted Garage
 • Conservatory
 • Block Paved Driveway
 • Four Bedrooms
 • En-Suite

£210,000



SOLD
 Subject to Contract

Holden Crescent, Walsall
 • Corner Plot Semi-Detached
 • Three Bedrooms
 • First Floor Bathroom
 • Attractive Front & Rear Gardens
 • Off Road Parking
 • Kitchen/Diner

£85,000



SOLD
 Subject to Contract

Rutherford Road, Walsall
 • End of Terrace Corner Plot
 • Front and Rear Gardens
 • Fitted Kitchen
 • Lounge
 • Study/Utility Room
 • Shower Room

£85,000

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SOLD
 Subject to Contract

West Street, Walsall
 • No Upward Chain
 • Well Presented End-Of-Terrace
 • Two Reception Rooms
 • Breakfast Kitchen
 • Modern Bathroom
 • Three Bedrooms

£87,950



SOLD
 Subject to Contract

Bloxwich Road, Walsall
 • Refurbished Victorian Terrace
 • Two Double Bedrooms
 • Refitted Kitchen
 • Through Lounge
 • Ground Floor WC
 • Refitted First Floor Bathroom

£90,000



SOLD
 Subject to Contract

Second Avenue, Ketley Bank
 • Semi-Detached house
 • Three Bedrooms
 • Dining Room
 • Utility Room
 • Off - Road Parking
 • Energy Rating - D

£99,950



SOLD
 Subject to Contract

Buxton Close, Walsall
 • No Upward Chain
 • Sought After Lower Farm Estate
 • Extended Kitchen/Breakfast Room
 • Two Reception Rooms
 • Delightful Front & Rear Gardens
 • Three Bedrooms

£110,000



SOLD
 Subject to Contract

Whitehall Road, Walsall
 • Larger Villa Style Terrace
 • Two Reception Rooms
 • Fitted Kitchen
 • Bathroom
 • Three Bedrooms
 • Master Bedroom with Walk-in Shower

£110,000



SOLD
 Subject to Contract

Chantry Avenue, Walsall
 • Spacious Semi-Detached
 • Corner Plot
 • Large Side Garage
 • Ideal First Purchase or Family Home
 • Refitted Kitchen & Bathroom
 • Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing

£110,000



SOLD
 Subject to Contract

Poplar Avenue, Walsall
 • NO UPWARD CHAIN
 • IDEAL FOR FIRST TIME BUYERS
 • CUL-DE-SAC LOCATION
 • LARGE REAR GARDEN
 • OFF ROAD PARKING
 • LOUNGE

£110,000



SOLD
 Subject to Contract

Lime Grove, Walsall
 • No Upward Chain
 • Three Bedrooms
 • Refitted Breakfast Kitchen
 • Spacious Lounge
 • Front & Rear Gardens
 • Close to Rushall Primary & Aldridge Sec-

£110,000



SOLD
 Subject to Contract

Bloxwich Road, Walsall
 • Imposing Double Fronted End of Terrace
 • Through Lounge
 • Fitted Kitchen/Diner
 • Garage & Store Room
 • Ground Floor W.C.
 • Refitted Bathroom

£119,995



SOLD
 Subject to Contract

Coronation Road, Walsall
 • Immaculately Presented Throughout
 • Ideal for First Time Buyers
 • Impressive Kitchen/Diner
 • Delightful Rear Garden
 • Close to St John's C of E School

£120,000



SOLD
 Subject to Contract

Pelsall Lane, Walsall
 • Ideal First Purchase
 • Superb Kitchen/Diner
 • Family Friendly Rear Garden
 • Off Road Parking
 • Refitted Kitchen & Bathroom
 • Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing

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CASH OFFERS ONLY



ST ANNES RD, WILLENHALL
Three Bed Mid Terrace Comprises Of Hall, Lounge, Separate Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor Bathroom, D/G. G/C/H. INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY TENANTED AT £540 PCM.

£74,995

BEECHDALE



KELVIN ROAD, WALSALL
Two Bed End Town House Comprises Of Entrance Hallway, Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Utility, Two Double Bedrooms And Family Bathroom, UPVC D/Glazing, C/ Heating, Front And Rear Garden.

£80,000

NEW INVENTION



SQUIRES GR, W-HALL
Modern Two Bed First Floor Apartment Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge With Juliette Balcony, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Master Bedroom With En-Suite, Family Bathroom, D/ Glazed & E/Heating.

£89,995

IDEAL INVESTMENT



LISTER ST, WILLENHALL
Three Bed Victorian Terrace Comprises Of Two Reception Rooms, Modern Fitted Kitchen And Family Bathroom. D/G. G/C/H. Enclosed Rear Garden. Ideal First Time Buy Or BTL.

£89,995

WILLENHALL



BLOXWICH RD SOUTH, W-HALL
Two Bed Semi Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Diner, Family Bathroom, UPVC Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Front & Rear Garden & Driveway.

£100,000

BENTLEY



MORRIS AVE, WALSALL
Three Bed Semi Detached Comprises Of Entrance Hallway, Lounge, Separate Dining Room, Kitchen, Inner Hallway, Utility Area, W/C, And A Family Bathroom With Part D/Glazing And C/ Heating.

£109,995

WILLENHALL



THE CRESCENT, WILLENHALL
Modern Two Bed Semi, Comprises Lounge With Open Plan Staircase, Kitchen/Diner, Conservatory And Family Bathroom. D/G. G/C/H. Block Paved Driveway. Enclosed Rear Garden.

£110,000

BENTLEY



EDINBURGH AVE, WALSALL
Two Bed Semi. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen & Ground Floor W.C. 1st Floor Bathroom. D/G & G/C/H. Off Road Parking To The Front & Enclosed Garden To The Rear.

£110,000

SHORT HEATH



SHERLOCK CLOSE, WILLENHALL
Well Presented Two Bed End Townhouse. Comprises Entrance Hall, Kitchen, Spacious Lounge, Conservatory, Bathroom, D/G, G/C/H, Parking To The Fore, Enclosed Garden To The Rear

£119,950

ROCKET POOL



MELDON DRIVE, BILSTON
Three Bed Mid Townhouse. Comprises Entrance Hall, Through Lounge/ Diner, Fitted Kitchen, Conservatory, Family Bathroom, Extensive Rear Gardens & Block Paved Driveway To Fore. Must View!

£119,995

WILLENHALL



LISTER STREET, WILLENHALL
Three Bed End Town House. Comprises Of Porch, Inner Hall, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Generous Lounge, Separate Dining Room, Sun Room & Family Bathroom. D/G. G/C/H. O/R/P To The Fore & Enclosed Garden To Rear.

£119,995

WILLENHALL



BIRCHES RISE, WILLENHALL
Three Bed Mid Town House. Comprises Of Entrance Porch, Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Diner And Family Bathroom. D/G. G/C/H. Gardens To Front & Rear. Allocated Off Road Parking Space. VIEWING ADVISED!

O.I.R.O £120,000

REEDSWOOD



BASALT CL, WALSALL
Three Bed Mid Town House Having Porch, Entrance Hall, Fitted Kitchen, Lounge/ Diner, Master With En-Suite, Family Bathroom,

BRACKENDALE



PATTENHAM CL, W-HALL
Three Storey Town House, Having Lounge, Fitted Kitchen Diner, Ground Floor W.C And Conservatory. Two Double Bedrooms A Family Bathroom And A Master Bedroom With En-Suite. D/G And GCH

£144,995

PORTOBELLO



DILLOWAYS LANE, W-HALL
Two, Two Bedroom Self Contained Flats Both Having Hallway, Lounge, Fitted kitchen And Family Shower Room. Both Flats Also Benefit From D/Glazing & C/ Heating.

£145,000

KINGFISHER ESTATE



WELLAND GROVE, W-HALL
Three Bedroom Detached Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom. D/ Glazed, G/C/H. Gardens To Front & Rear, Driveway & Garage.

£145,995

WEDNESFIELD



BROAD LANE SOUTH, W-FIELD
Three Bed Semi Comprising Of Entrance Porch, Through Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom, D/ Glazing, C/Heating, Rear Garden And Driveway To Front And Side.

£149,995

BROADLANDS ESTATE



ROCKLAND GDNS, W-HALL
Three Bed Semi Comprises Of Entrance Porch, Inner Hallway, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Separate Dining Room And Conservatory And A Family Bathroom, D/Glazing And C/ Heating Throughout

£157,995

THE HAYES



CASTLE DRIVE, WILLENHALL
Three/Four Bed Link Detached. Comprises Of Lounge, Kitchen/ Diner, Ground Floor W.C & Bedroom. Three First Floor Bedrooms & Jack And Jill Bathroom. D/G. G/C/H. Driveway & Garage. Rear Garden.

£163,000

WOODLANDS



HUNTS LANE, WILLENHALL
Extended Four Bed Semi Detached. Comprises Of Fitted Kitchen, Spacious Lounge/ Diner, Conservatory, Ground Floor Bedroom, Bathroom, D/G, G/C/H, Off Road Parking. Generous Plot.

£165,000

COPPICE FARM



HIGHMOOR CL, W-HALL
Three Bed Detached. Comprises Of Lounge, Separate Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom, D/ Glazing, C/Heating, Garage, Block Paved Driveway And Enclosed Rear Garden.

£169,995

WILLENHALL



BILSTON LANE, WILLENHALL
Three Bed Detached. Comprises Of Porch, Hall, Guest W.C, Lounge, Spacious Kitchen/ Diner, Veranda & Family Bathroom. Maj D/G. G/C/H. Garden To Fore. O/R/P. Extensive Gardens To Rear.

£185,000

SHORT HEATH



WALKERS FOLD, W-HALL
Four Bed Detached Lounge, Separate Dining Room, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Separate Utility, Ground Floor W.C, Four Bedrooms, En-suite, Refitted Family Bathroom, D/ Glazing, C/Heating And Integral Garage.

£239,995

SHORT HEATH

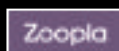


BLOXWICH RD NTH, W-HALL
Detached Three Bed Having Entrance Porch, Hall, Lounge With Inglenook Fireplace, Separate Sitting Room, Conservatory, Fitted Kitchen, Galliered Landing, Family Bathroom, Garage, D/Glazing, C/ Heating.

£265,000

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Dating from the mid-19th century the property has been significantly extended and is for sale through Allan Morris at £559,950.

It is approached down a private lane with shared access to a handful of properties. It has a lengthy gravelled driveway, a main reception hall with WC off, a main lounge with bay windows and a log burner, a dining room with a log burner, a large sitting room with a log effect LPG fire and French doors, a breakfast kitchen with slate tiled flooring and exposed timbers and with a free standing Rangemaster cooker.

There are five bedrooms, a large bathroom and second bathroom. The garden includes a greenhouse and a shed and a substantial garage/workshop. Call 01299 825522 or visit www.allan-morris.co.uk



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WILLENHALL BILSTON LANE
 • Greatly Extended 4 Bedroom Detached Bungalow
 • Generous Plot, DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL STPP
 • Large Lounge • Dining Room • Impressive Kitchen
 • Bathroom, Shower Room • 29ft. Games Room
£280,000



WILLENHALL RAVENSCROFT ROAD
 • Impressive 3 Bedroom Detached Family Residence
 • Lounge, Dining Room • Spacious Kitchen/diner
 • Utility Room With Wc • Bathroom, En-suite
 • Two Garages • Large Corner Plot, Gardens
£245,000



WILLENHALL BIRCHFIELDS ROAD
 • Well Presented 3 Bedroom Traditional Semi Det.
 • Extended Kitchen • Two Reception Rooms
 • Conservatory • Bathroom • Garage
 • Pleasant, Garden • Off Road Parking
£235,000



BENTLEY MONMOUTH ROAD
 • Much Improved 2 Bedroom Detached Bungalow
 • Lounge, 29ft. Sun Room • Re-fitted Kitchen
 • Re-fitted Shower Room • Storage Room/Utility
 • Double Glaz, Gas CH, Drive • Delightful Gardens
£160,000



WILLENHALL DILLOWAYS LANE
 • Extended 3 Bedroom Detached
 • Hall, Dining Room, Extended Lounge
 • Re-fitted Extended Kitchen, Driveway
 • Large Gardens Ideal To Extend (Stpp), No Chain
£130,000



WILLENHALL ASHMORE LAKE ROAD
 • Beautifully Presented Semi Detached Property
 • Two Reception Rooms
 • Impressive 24ft. Kitchen



WILLENHALL ROSEHILL
 • Traditional Semi Detached Property
 • Hall, Two Reception Rooms, Re-fitted Kitchen
 • Re-fitted Bathroom, Three Bedrooms
 • Gas CH, Driveway, Large Rear Gardens, No Chain
£124,950



WILLENHALL ROSEHILL
 • Traditional Semi Detached Property
 • Hall, Two Reception Rooms, Re-fitted Kitchen
 • Re-fitted Bathroom, Three Bedrooms
 • Gas CH, Driveway, Large Rear Gardens, No Chain
£124,950



SHORT HEATH POOLES LANE
 • Period Two Bedroom Mid Terrace Property
 • Two Reception Rooms, Extended Kitchen
 • Bathroom, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating
 • Pleasant Rear Gardens, No Upward Chain
OFFERS OVER £100,000



WILLENHALL KINVER AVENUE
 • Semi Detached Property On A Popular Road
 • Hall, Lounge, Dining Kitchen, Guests Wc
 • Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Double Glazing
 • Gas CH, Driveway, Rear Gardens, No Upward Chain
£120,000



NEW INVENTION SQUIRES GROVE
 • Well Presented Modern 2 Bedroom End Terrace
 • Gas Central Heating And Upvc Double Glazing
 • 2 En Suites, Large Lounge With Dining Area, Wc,
 • Garage, Allocated Parking Space, Gardens
£130,000



WILLENHALL SHEPPWELL GREEN
 • Spacious Well Presented Second Floor Flat:
 • Hall, Large Lounge, Spacious Kitchen
 • Two Excellent Bedrooms, Re-fitted Bathroom
 • Double Glazing, Garage, No Chain
£75,000



NEW INVENTION ESSINGTON RD
 • Ground Floor Apartment, In Popular Development
 • Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Spacious Bedroom
 • Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing
 • Communal Gardens And Parking, No Upward Chain
£69,950



WILLENHALL HOLMAN CLOSE
 • Much Improved Ground Floor Maisonette
 • Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Double Bedroom,
 • Bathroom, Double Glaz, Warm Air Heating System
 • Long Lease, No Upward Chain
£55,000



ESSINGTON SNEYD LANE
 • Superb Four Bedroom Detached with Garage
 • Open plan lounge, dining room
 • Family room • Re-fitted breakfast kitchen
 • Bathroom • En-suite • D Glazing • Gas CH
£340,000



COPPICE FARM LOCHALSH GROVE
 • Superb 2 Bedroom Detached Bungalow
 • Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen, Conservatory
 • Shower Room, Double Glazing, Gas CH
 • Gardens, Driveway, Garage, No Chain
£220,000



WILLENHALL WILLIAMS CLOSE
 • Much Improved Three Bedroom Semi Detached
 • Spacious L Shaped Lounge / Dining Room
 • Fitted Kitchen • Bathroom
 • Driveway • Garage • Pleasant Gardens
£145,000



WILLENHALL ALVINGTON CLOSE
 • Improved 3 Bedroom Semi Detached
 • Lounge with Dining Area • Re-Fitted Kitchen
 • Double Glazing • Gas CH
 • Garage and Driveway • Pleasant Gardens
£139,950



PORTOBELLO MOUNT ROAD
 • Deceptively Spacious 3 Bedroom End Terrace
 • Lounge, Sitting Room, Spacious Fitted Kitchen
 • Loft Room, Large Bathroom, Rear Gardens
 • Gas Central Heating System, Double Glazing
£130,000



SHORT HEATH WALKERS FOLD
 • Modern 3 Bedroom Semi Detached Positioned On
 • An Excellent Plot With Potential To Extend (STPP)
 • Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen
 • Double Glazing, Gas CH, Driveway
OFFERS OVER £129,995



COUNTY BRIDGE DEVON ROAD
 • Improved Traditional Bay Fronted Semi Detached
 • Hall, Lounge, Excellent Dining Kitchen
 • Three Bedrooms, Re-fitted Shower Room
 • Garage, Driveway, Rear Gardens, No Chain
£123,500



WILLENHALL SPINDLE TREE RISE
 • Impeccably Appointed Modern End Terrace
 • Hall • Guests Wc, Lounge, Impressive Kitchen
 • Excellent Conservatory, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom
 • Double Width Driveway, Gardens, Gas CH, D Glaz
OFFERS OVER £120,000



WILLENHALL SHEPPWELL GREEN
 • Improved Traditional Semi Detached
 • Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen
 • Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Double Glazing
 • Gas Central Heating, Driveway, Gardens
£119,000



WILLENHALL RUGELEY AVENUE
 • Much Improved 3 Bedroom Semi Detached
 • Hall, Lounge / Dining Room, Re-fitted Kitchen
 • Utility, Bathroom, Double Glazing, Gas CH
 • Driveway, Large Garden
OFFERS OVER £110,000



WILLENHALL BRICK KILN STREET
 • Well Presented Semi Detached Property
 • Hall, Lounge, Large Kitchen, G Floor Bathroom
 • Three Bedrooms, Gas Central Heating System
 • Double Glazing, Driveway, Rear Gardens
£109,950



NEW INVENTION SQUIRES GROVE
 • Well Presented Ground Floor Apartment
 • Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms
 • Bathroom, En-suite Shower Room
 • Allocated Parking Space, No Chain
£95,000 (70% SHARE AVAILABLE)



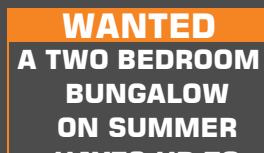
WILLENHALL CLOTHIER STREET
 • Renovated 3 Bedroom Mid Terrace Property
 • Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor Bathroom
 • Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating System
 • Rear Gardens, No Upward Chain
£95,000



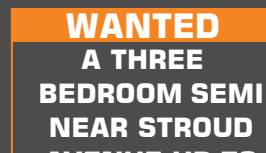
WILLENHALL WELLINGTON PLACE
 • Well Appointed First Floor Duplex Maisonette
 • Allocated Parking Spaces
 • Lounge with Dining Area • Large Bedroom
 • Fitted Kitchen • Bathroom • Double Glazing
OFFERS OVER £80,000



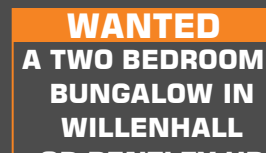
WILLENHALL CADNAM CLOSE
 • Modern Style 3 Bedroom Detached Property
 • Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen
 • Bathroom, Double Glazing • Gas CH
 • Garage, Driveway, Front And Rear Gardens
£127,000



WILLENHALL CADNAM CLOSE
 • Modern Style 3 Bedroom Detached Property
 • Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen
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An elite band will travel in comfort

By Ian Donaldson

Forget the Ferrari, banish the Bentley; if you want to stand out from the crowd you need the new Volvo S60 Cross Country. It's going to be a very rare sight indeed on British roads.

Volvo reckons it will sell only 100 of these gently toughened saloons here each year, while explaining they will be much more popular in India and South America.

They're both areas of the world where a saloon car shape is seen as prestigious; here in the UK we favour the practicality of a hatchback or estate and buy fewer booted saloons. Volvo meets part of that market by offering the new Cross Country as an V60 estate alongside the S60 saloon and expects to sell 850 of them in a year; rendering it a still rare sight but not in the hen's teeth way of the saloon.

Both sit near the pinnacle of a broad S/V60 range that starts at £21,005 for the S60 with 2.0-litre petrol power (the V60 estate is another £1,200) and are aimed at owners who want a car that stands out from the crowd, while offering a little more country lane ability.

That latter attribute comes from suspension that pushes the Cross Country versions 65mm higher above the road (or grassy field) than standard cars and should help if you live along a bumpy, rutted lane.

That's the only genuinely useful upgrade for the 'active lifestyle' sort of buyer so beloved of car companies these days. The alloy looking skid plates under front and rear bumpers are styling touches only, helping onlookers tell the car apart from non-Cross Country versions if they've not already clocked its unique design of alloy wheels, black radiator grille or modest plastic wheelarch extensions.

Opt for the most expensive car in the S60 range, the £36,525 AUD Geartronic Cross Country Lux Nav, and you gain all-wheel drive and automatic gearbox, although the engine is an older 2400cc five-cylinder unit that produces notably poorer economy and emissions figures than the car tested here.

It makes the same 187bhp as the newer 2.0 litre engine in the test car but with a little more low-speed pulling power and the benefit of auto gears if you're happy to pay at the pumps for an easier life.

Single

The S60 Cross Country D4 Manual Lux NavTug tested here comes in a single specification at £33,695 (hardly worth the bother to offer more with predicted sales so tiny) but it's a pretty luxurious take on country living.

Standard kit includes leather upholstery, satellite navigation, 18in alloy wheels, headlight washers, climate control, cruise control, auto dimming interior mirror and rear centre armrest with storage and cupholders. Surprisingly, heated front seats are extra, as part of an optional £675 winter pack. Another £150 buys a slimline spare wheel in place of a can of gloop.

Slipping into the driver's seat of the S60 Cross Country brings you face to face with a dashboard that looks a lot like those you'll find in most other current Volvos – and that's a good thing. It means the instruments are big and easy to read, and the switches for everything from heating to adjusting the radio are bold and obvious.

Then you start up and move off, surprised to find a manual gearchange in a car that seems posh enough to take the auto route. But it's an easy change to use and the engine is responsive enough to let you hang on to higher gears around town. It will also help on the economy front.

My brief drive showed a respectable 41mpg on the trip computer (67.3mpg is the official, but always optimistic average) after a journey that gave no space to test the car's 130mph top speed or sprint to 62mph in 7.7 seconds.

What was tested on some poor Cotswolds roads was a ride that delighted with the way it soaked up the bumps and constant little surface irritations. So the modest band of £60 Cross Country owners are going to reach their weekend holiday cottage in some comfort.

TESTED

Volvo S60 Cross Country D4 Manual Lux Nav
– £33,695

Drivetrain: 2.0 litre 187bhp diesel engine, 6-speed gearbox

Performance: Top speed 130mph 0-62mph 7.7 seconds

Economy: Euro average 67.3mpg CO2 111g/km
road tax £0 first year, then £30

Safety: EuroNCAP 5 stars

Insurance: Group 29

Warranty: Three years or 60,000 miles

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14 Adam 1.2 Jam 3dr , White roof, Intellink, Bluetooth, alloys, A/C, 6200 miles, Blue	£8999	13 Mokka 1.7 SE , sat Nav leather, Bluetooth and much, much more, Pearl White, 25800 miles.	£12999
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15 Adam 1.2 Jam , 16" alloys, Bluetooth, Cruise Control, Urban Pack, 1987 miles, Purple.	£9999	14 Mokka 1.7 Exclusiv , 18" alloys, Bluetooth, DAB, Parking sensors, 13900 miles, Silver.	£13499
CORSA		14 Mokka 1.7 Techline , Bluetooth, Sat Nav, Climate control, 8000 miles, White.	£14999
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13 Corsa 1.2 Energy 3dr , 16" alloys, CD Player, A/C, 8825 miles, White.	£7499	64 Mokka 1.7 Techline , 18" alloys, Front & Rear Sensors, Sat Nav, 6986 miles, Blue.	£16999
63 Corsa 1.2 Energy 3dr , 16" alloys, Bluetooth, CD Player, A/C, 7385 miles, Grey.	£7499	64 Mokka 1.7 Techline , 18" alloys, Front & Rear Sensors, Sat Nav, 3029 miles, Orange.	£16999
63 Corsa 1.2 Energy 5dr , 16" alloys, Bluetooth, CD Player, A/C, 7385 miles, Grey.	£7499	INSIGNIA	
62 Corsa 1.4 Active 5dr , 16" alloys, CD Player, A/C, 12768 miles, Red.	£7999	12 Insignia 2.0 CDTi SRI , 18" alloys, Front & Rear Sensors, Sat Nav, 17874 miles, Brown.	£11499
62 Corsa 1.4 Active 5dr , 16" alloys, ½ Leather, A/C, Bluetooth, 3075 miles, Black.	£7999	14 Insignia 2.0 CDTi 5dr , 18" alloys, Parking sensors, Sat Nav, 20800 miles, Silver.	£13999
62 Corsa 1.2 Limited Edition 3dr , Cruise Control, A/C, Cruise Control, 23612 miles, Red	£7999	63 Insignia 2.0 CDTi 5dr , 18" alloys, Front & Rear Sensors, Heated seats, 14143 miles, White.	£13499
14 Corsa 1.4 Excite , 16" alloys, Bluetooth, Heated Front Seats, 12039 miles, Blue.	£7999	63 Insignia 2.0 CDTi 5dr , 18" alloys, Front & Rear Sensors, Heated seats, 12500 miles, Black.	£13999
12 Corsa 1.2 CDTi , 16" alloys, Glass Roof & Sunroof, Heated seats, ½ Leather, 21332 miles, Red.	£7999	64 Insignia 2.0 CDTi 163ps Energy 5dr , 18" alloys, Bluetooth, Parking sensors, Del miles, Green.	£14999
14 Corsa 1.4 Excite 3dr , 16" alloys, USB, AUX, Heated seats, 8878 miles, Red.	£8499	14 Insignia 2.0 CDTi 5dr , 18" alloys, Front & Rear Sensors, Heated seats, 16328 miles, Grey.	£15999
12 Corsa 1.4 SE 5dr , 16" alloys, Rear Sensors, Heated seats, ½ Leathers, 5903 miles, Orange	£8499	64 Insignia 2.0 CDTi 5dr , 19" alloys, Sat Nav, Bluetooth, Leather, 5880 miles, Silver.	£17499
12 Corsa 1.4 SRI 3dr , 17" alloys, Body Kit, Rear Parking Sensors, 15661 miles, Orange	£8999	ANTARA	
15 New Shape Corsa 1.4 Excite 3dr AUTO , Bluetooth, A/C, heated seats, 650 miles, White.	£9999	61 Antara 2.2 CDTi Exclusiv , 17" alloys, Tow bar, ½ leather, Heated seats, CD player, 34267 m, White.	£10999
ASTRA		62 Antara 2.2 CDTi Exclusiv , 18" alloys, Front & Rear Sensors, Heated seats, 22922 miles, White.	£12999
10 Astra 1.6 Exclusive 5dr , Bluetooth, Cruise Control, A/C, 21402 miles, Grey.	£7499	12 Antara 2.2 CDTi SE 5dr , 19" alloys, Heated seats, Leather, Sat Nav, 23846 miles, Black.	£13499
12 Astra 1.6 Exclusiv 5dr , A/C, Cruise control, Parking sensors, 37300 miles, White.	£7499	13 Antara 2.2 CDTi Diamond 4x4 , Parking sensors, Leather seats, 18" alloys, 13600 miles, Black.	£14999
61 Astra 1.6 Exclusiv 5dr , Front & Rear Sensors, CD Player, A/C, 25019 miles, Silver.	£7999	64 Antara 2.2 CDTi 4x4 , Leather seats, Front & Rear Sensors, Sat Nav, USB, 14254 miles, Black.	£16999
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63 Astra 1.4 Energy 5dr , alloys, Bluetooth, Cruise control, 10500 miles, Silver.	£8999	62 GTC 1.4 SRI Turbo 3dr , 19" alloys, Bluetooth, Stop/Start, A/C, 48777 miles, White.	£9499
63 Astra 1.6 Energy 5dr , 17" alloys, Bluetooth, A/C, CD Player, 15012 miles, Silver.	£9999	63 GTC 1.4 SRI 3dr , 19" alloys, Bluetooth, DAB, 18500 miles, Red.	£11999
63 Astra 1.7 CDTi Ltd Edition 5dr , 19" alloys, Body Kit, A/C, 27500 miles, Red.	£10699	14 Corsa 1.6 VXR 3dr , 18" alloys, A/C, Sat Nav, Bluetooth, 9598 miles, White.	£14999
12 Astra 2.0 CDTi Elite 5dr , 17" alloys, Front & Rear Sensors, Leather, 22063 miles, Silver.	£11999	15 Astra 2.0 VXR 3dr , 20" alloys, Bluetooth, Aero Pack, DAB Radio, 2465 miles, Black.	£20999
14 Astra 1.6 Techline 5dr , 18" alloys, Sat Nav, Body Kit, A/C, 16030 miles, Silver.	£11499	59 VXR8 6.2 V8 4dr AUTO , 19" alloys, Bluetooth, Rear Parking sensors, 30200 miles, Black.	£22999
14 Astra 1.6 Ecoflex 5dr , 19" alloys, Leather, Body Kit Side & Rear, 12118 miles, Silver.	£12499	COMMERCIALS	
MERIVA		14 Vivaro 2.0 CDTi Sportive , A/C, Bluetooth, N/S Sliding Door, 2788 miles, White.	£13499
12 Meriva 1.7 CDTi 5dr , Front & Rear Sensors, CD Player, A/C, 6924 miles, Black.	£9499	TRADE & SAVE - All come with 3 month Warranty, Mot & Safety Check	
14 Meriva 1.4 Techline 5dr , Sat Nav, Bluetooth, alloys, Del miles, White, EX DEMO	£11999	10 Suzuki SX4 1.6 5dr , 16" alloys, A/C, 56254 miles, Blue.	£5499
ZAFIRA		63 Chevrolet Spark 1.2 LT 5dr , USB & AUX, CD Player, Bluetooth, 2313 miles, Grey.	£5999
12 Zafira 1.7 Ecoflex , A/C, Front & Rear Sensors, CD Player, 48198 miles, Black.	£8499	13 Chevrolet Aveo 1.2 LT , 15" alloys, A/C, S/S, 11900 miles, Blue.	£5999
12 Zafira Design 1.6 , 16" alloys, Front & Rear Sensors, Sat Nav, Heated seats, 39360 miles, Grey.	£8999	12 Corsa 1.2 Active 5dr , 16" alloys, A/C, Bluetooth, 33178 miles, Grey.	£6999
12 Zafira 1.6 Design , 16" alloys, Parking sensors, Heated seats, 2000 miles, Grey.	£9499	12 Mercedes A160 Blue efficiency Classic SE , Parking sensors, A/C, Bluetooth, 20400 miles, Grey.	£7799
12 Zafira Design 1.6 , 16" alloys, Front & Rear Sensors, Heated seats, 23641 miles, Silver.	£9499	60 Honda Civic 1.3 Type S 3dr , 16" alloys, A/C, 20696 miles, Red.	£7999
12 Zafira Design 1.7 , 16" alloys, Front & Rear Sensors, Heated seats, 27387 miles, Red.	£9699	11 VW Polo 1.4 SE 5dr , 15" alloys, Rear Sensors, A/C, 33403 miles, Grey.	£7999
12 Zafira Design 1.8 , 16" alloys, Front & Rear Sensors, Heated seats, 8664 miles, Silver.	£10499	63 Jaguar XF 2.2 , Heated seats, Sat Nav, Parking Sensors, Rear Parking Camera, 8504 miles, White.	£21999
14 Zafira Tourer 2.0 CDTi , Front & Rear Sensors, Cruise Control, A/C, 13573 miles, Blue.	£13499		

9.9 APR Representative Finance example for 62 Plate Vauxhall Astra Diesel Hatchback 2.0 CDTi 16v ecoFLEX SRI 5 door, 2000 miles									
Cash price of vehicle	Customer deposit	Total amount of credit	Total charge for credit	Balance payable	58 monthly payments	Duration in months	One final payment	Representative APR	Total amount payable
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Honda's revised Jazz and new HR-V

Honda's got a lot to look at for new registration and two of the latest in the pack are the new HR-V and revised Jazz.

The all-new Jazz builds on the strong reputation of its highly successful predecessors. The newcomer retains the classic Jazz silhouette yet has distinctive contemporary styling, including a powerful new face and strong character lines.

A new platform increases overall length by 95 mm, but highly efficient packaging means that the latest Jazz is proportionally even bigger on the inside than the previous generation model. Occupants will benefit from both boot space and passenger space that are unrivalled in the class. The all-new Jazz offers exceptional versatility, retaining Honda's highly practical Magic Seat system which allows for numerous cargo configurations.

Specifications are generous across the range, with base-grade S models fitted as standard with convenience features such as air conditioning, cruise control with speed limiter and dusk sensing auto lights. Every grade comes with Honda's City-Brake Active to help avoid low-speed accidents.

The mid-grade SE model, priced from £14,595, adds front and rear parking sensors, electrically adjustable and heated door mirrors and 15" alloy wheels. Honda's Driver Assistance Safety Pack is also included, giving owners the extra reassurance of five advanced active safety aids.

Those opting for the top-grade EX model (from £15,715) will appreciate smart entry and start, automatic climate control and six-speaker audio upgrade. Styling is enhanced with 16-inch alloy wheels and front fog lamps.

Access

Customers opting for the SE or EX models will also benefit from the Honda Connect in-car infotainment system as standard. This Android-based system features an app-based 'pinch, swipe and tap' interface accessed on a seven-inch touchscreen in the centre of the dash.

Honda Connect comes with pre-installed apps, with others available for download from the Honda App Centre. These give rapid access to internet-based services such as web browsing, real-time traffic information, news and weather, social media, and internet music stations.

A new, highly efficient, highly responsive 1.3 litre i-TEC petrol engine from Honda's Earth Dreams Technology series delivers 102 PS at 6,000 rpm. This power unit delivers the sprightly driving performance of the previous Jazz's 1.4 litre engine, together with fuel economy equivalent to its 1.2 litre. Combined with either a six-speed manual gearbox or a newly developed CVT, emissions are as low as 106 g/km of CO₂. The CVT's driveability is given a more natural 'multi-gear' feel through the use of new control software exclusive to Europe which simulates seven speeds and provides optimised gear change mapping.

The subcompact hatchback will be priced from £13,495 on-the-road for the entry-level S model.

The new Honda HR-V subcompact crossover will be priced from £17,995 on-the-road for the entry-level S grade petrol model, rising to £24,945 for the flagship EX diesel.

The all-new HR-V blends characterful coupé looks merged with the tough, solid stance of a robust SUV. Inside, occupants will find class-leading boot space. Thanks to innovative packaging, the HR-V's has exceptional versatility incorporating Honda's highly practical Magic Seats system, allowing for numerous loading configurations.

Buyers opting for the base-grade S model are well catered for, with convenience features such as climate control, cruise control and dusk-sensing automatic headlamps fitted as standard.

The mid-grade SE model adds a range of premium features, including rain sensing wipers, front and rear parking sensors and a six-speaker audio upgrade. A 'Smart Touch' interior includes touch panel controls for the climate control.

The top-grade EX model gets a full leather interior, smart entry and start, and rear-view camera. The sense of HR-V's spaciousness is amplified with the unique-in-class, tilt-and-slide opening panoramic glass sunroof.

Customers opting for the SE or EX models will also benefit from the Honda Connect in-car infotainment system as standard. This Android-based system features an app-based 'pinch, swipe and tap' interface accessed on a seven-inch touchscreen in the centre of the dash.

Honda Connect comes with pre-installed apps, with others available for download. These give rapid access to internet-based services such as web browsing, real-time traffic information, news and weather, social media, and internet music stations. Integrated Garmin navigation is standard on EX and an option on SE models. Every HR-V in Europe will have City-Brake Active System as standard. SE or EX models will feature Honda's Advanced Driver Assist System.

There's a choice of all-new 130 PS 1.5 litre i-TEC petrol and 120 PS 1.6 litre i-TEC diesel engines. Combined with either a six-speed manual gearbox or a newly developed CVT (for petrol models only), emissions are as low as 104 g/km of CO₂.



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Civic Diesel Sport Hatchback 1.6 i-TEC S 5 door	£20,820.00	£750.00	£2,000.00	£18,070.00	£2,476.40	£20,546.40	£23,296.40	5.9%	5.68%	£295.11	£9,922.44	37 months	18,500 miles	4.65p/mile



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Fuel consumption figures for the Civic Sport 1.6 i-TEC Manual in mpg (l/100km): Urban 68.9 (4.1), Extra Urban 80.7 (3.5), Combined 76.3 (3.7). CO₂ emissions: 98g/km. Fuel consumption figures sourced from official EU-regulated laboratory test results are provided for comparison purposes and may not reflect real-life driving experience.

Model Shown: Civic Sport 1.6 i-TEC Manual in Brilliant Sporty Blue Metallic at £20,820 On The Road [OTR]. **Terms and Conditions:** New retail 15YM Civic Hatchbacks or Tourers registered by 31 August 2015. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. Not to be used along with any other offers currently available. 5.9% APR Representative example shown based on Civic Sport 1.6 i-TEC Manual in Brilliant Sporty Blue Metallic at £20,820 total cash price with 37 months 5.9% APR Representative PCP (interest rate per annum 5.68% fixed). You do not have to pay the Final Payment if you return the car at the end of the agreement and you have paid all other amounts due, the vehicle is in good condition and has been serviced in accordance with the Honda service book and the maximum annual mileage has not been exceeded. Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. Honda Franchise Dealers are credit brokers, not lenders. Credit provided by Honda Finance Europe Plc. Cain Road, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 1HL. Honda Finance Europe plc is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Financial Services Register number 312541. **5 Years' Complimentary Servicing includes:** All scheduled servicing, as detailed in the vehicles service book, will be covered for 5 years or 62,500 miles, whichever comes first. Please note, should you sell the vehicle during the period of cover, the package remains with the vehicle. 5 years' complimentary servicing, 5 years Warranty and 5 years AA Roadside Assistance on all orders placed before 31st August 2015 is a Brindley Honda exclusive offer.

Picanto is pitched perfectly

It's not uncommon to assess a vehicle and wonder why it has been launched.

Some manufacturers get their product design cycles out of phase with economic conditions, while others launch into a once fashionable market that's gone cold. Then there are those that arrive plum square with the right product at the right time and the second generation Kia Picanto citycar is most definitely one of the latter.

No model in this class has a sniff of a chance unless it can guarantee tiny day-to-day running costs and the Picanto certainly answers that particular call.

Both engines have been designed to offer maximum efficiency, from their continuously variable valve timing to their low-friction valve springs. The net result is that the 1.0-litre

unit emits just 99g/km of carbon dioxide in standard trim. Kia goes one stage further with its suite of EcoDynamics technologies (automatic stop-start - ISG, advanced alternator control, upgraded starter motor and low-rolling resistance tyres), cutting emissions even further - to between 95 and 102 g/km. Combined fuel economy for the 1.0-litre model teamed with the EcoDynamics gear is 67.3mpg.

Priced between £8,145 and £12,595, the Picanto doesn't do anything that's particularly fresh or radical but its blend of affordability coupled with solid engineering, impressive build quality, generous equipment and clean styling build upon its tiny ongoing running costs to form a convincing buying proposition. Back that up with a great warranty and the Kia Picanto emerges as one of the very best citycars we've seen in quite some time.

● The all-New Kia Sorento has ambition.



'The UK range hinges around a 197bhp 2.2-litre turbodiesel engine and a great deal of work has gone into improving refinement'

What started life as a budget-priced larger 4x4 has been fettled and polished into something far more refined. This third generation model looks to have the finish and engineering to put the frighteners on the SUV-class high fliers.

The UK range hinges around a 197bhp 2.2-litre turbodiesel engine and a great deal of work has gone into improving refinement, with a torsionally stiffer body-shell, additional soundproofing, acoustic shields built into the engine bay, and a thicker dashboard. Depending on speed, ambient noise within the cabin is claimed to be between three and six per cent quieter

than the previous car. The suspension and steering systems have also been comprehensively reworked.

There's a stack of room inside there though, with five- or seven-seat models offered. There's greater legroom throughout. Cargo space also increases, and capacity with the third row seats folded flat is up 17.5 per cent, from 515 to 605-litres. Prices start somewhere in the region of £27,000 which is still excellent value for money. The Sorento looks a good deal more expensive than it is and even in a notoriously badge-conscious sector it would appear to be just too much of a bargain to overlook.



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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Astra Excite 1.4, 5dr: Urban: 38.2 (7.4), Extra-urban: 57.7 (4.9), Combined: 48.7 (5.8). CO₂ emissions: 136g/km. #

Participating Retailers only. Model featured Astra Excite 1.4i 100PS 5dr in Power Red from £17,920 on the road. Offer price £12,595. Offer available on orders or registrations from 2 July to 7 October 2015, subject to availability. Offer available to private individuals and small businesses 1-24 units (purchase only, excluding B2B). All other sales categories are excluded. cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. UK-supplied vehicles only. #Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors. Offer applies to pre model year 2016 vehicles only. See Retailer for further details. Correct at time of going to press.

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3 Home & Services

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PEUGEOT BOXER, SWB motorhome, Florida conversion. 2 berth. 1996, 1.9 diesel, 12 months MOT, blowair heating, TV, Porta loo, £5,500 ono. 07986 161912.

RENAULT CAMPERVAN 2berth, 1997/98, toilet/shower, washbasin, cooker, fridge, sink, TV, cycle rack, MOT April. 0121 553 5926.

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building & construction

BRICKLAYERS required for immediate start on price work project in Blaxwood, Walsall. Excellent earning potential for quality brickwork gangs and singles. All materials loaded out by site team. Wages paid weekly by BACS. Call 0113 3918220.

MULTI SKILLED BUILDERS Local areas. Min 5 years experience able to work on own initiative, have own transport & tools. Competitive rates. Call Chris on 07967 178858

S. CLIFT BUILDERS REQUIRE CARPENTERS Please call 01922 713754.

employment wanted

CLASS 1 DRIVER very experienced, aged 65 semi retired, any driving considered, even a few days per week. CPC. 01922 512935.

CLEANER LOOKING FOR CLEANING WORK
Full/part time.
Private houses only.
20 years experience.
Good references on request.
Contact Lisa 07792 492548.

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Details on our web-site: www.majorfax.co.uk
Please submit CV and covering letter to castings@majorfax.co.uk or to Majorfax Ltd, Charles Street, Walsall, WS2 9LZ

TOOL MAKERS
Phoenix Tooling and Development Ltd Due to major expansion we have exciting opportunities at our modern equipped Aldridge site for Experienced press toolmakers to support the assembly, try-out, development loops & successful commissioning of new, sometimes Complex press tooling projects & also to assist on the increasing repairs & modification work.
Please apply by sending CV martin.mulvey@phoenixtooling.co.uk

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NIGHT SHIFT WAREHOUSE OPERATIVES X 2

4 x 12 hour shift - Monday to Thursday (4.00pm to 4.00am).

Must be experienced in steel stockholding and overhead crane use.
Competitive rates of pay plus shift allowance.

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Call First4Teachers on 01902 823123 or email Jane@first4teachers.co.uk
It's as easy as... a.b.c

Care2U
Caring for Generations

Home Care and Support Workers Required

Drivers and walkers required in Walsall Borough for immediate start. Up to £7.50ph, training provided and minimised travel. Due to postcode coordination and Team working. Involves working early mornings, evenings and weekends as part of a rota system, 5 days out of 7. If have a caring nature then we would like to hear from you. Employment subject to suitable enhanced DBS check and 2 references. Previous applicants need not apply.

For an application pack contact Lindsay on 01922 659637 or Email: jobs@care2ultd.co.uk

FLOOR LAYERS - Exp Ess Contract Carpets & Vinyls, c/c D&J Bailey (Flooring) Ltd Tel 01922 455070.

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required for Casting Manufacturer in Walsall
Required to spray cast metal components in various wet paint finishes.
The ideal painter must have good previous experience in preparation of components, priming and finishing.
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To apply please send your CV and a covering letter via e-mail/post to castings@majorfax.co.uk
MAJORFAX LTD
Charles Street, Walsall, WS2 9LZ

LEAFLET DISTRIBUTORS / Market Researchers / Drivers required for national company. No experience required as full paid training given. Contact Sarah on 07970 988473

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

NISSAN FIGARO Green, H reg, in Stafford area, 85,000 miles, electric windows, air con, fish, long Mot, many new parts. £4,000 ono. 07730 766019.

MINI ONE, 57 reg, blue, Mot, 54k, Cat C Vosa Approved, excellent condition, £4,050. 07758 608398.

HYUNDAI TUCSON 2005, 113,000 miles, silver, electric windows, air con, Mot, diesel, sunroof, CD, leather interior, good condition, great drive, towbar. £2,850 ono. 07901 591740.

NISSAN FIGARO Green, H reg, in Stafford area, 85,000 miles, electric windows, air con, fish, long Mot, many new parts. £4,000 ono. 07730 766019.

NISSAN FIGARO Green, H reg, in Stafford area, 85,000 miles, electric windows, air con, fish, long Mot, many new parts. £4,000 ono. 07730 766019.

NISSAN FIGARO Green, H reg, in Stafford area, 85,000 miles, electric windows, air con, fish, long Mot, many new parts. £4,000 ono. 07730 766019.

8 Motoring

cars over £1500

BMW 320i CISE COUPE 2001, MoT, 55,000 miles only, FSH, blue, don't miss it. £2,499 ono. 07906 156776.

FORD FIESTA, 2003, 82,642 miles, red, air-bag, long Mot, central locking, PAS, sunroof, CD, tow bar. £1,650 ono. 07974 490460

DAEWOO KALOS 1.4, 2003, Black, Petrol, MoT November, £395. o.n.o. Telephone 07999 465016.

DAEWOO MATIZ 2001, 37,755 miles, MoT till May 2016, blue, good condition, below average mileage, £7915 190853.

FORD KA 2005, 63,000 miles, navy blue, abs, MoT, CD, 1.3 engine, 8 months MoT. £495. 07720 245897.

FORD FIESTA Flight 1.3, 2001, MoT immaculate, red, 73,000k, seven services, showroom condition. £850. 07771 428793

FORD FOCUS, 2000, 138,145 miles, green, electric windows, air bag, long Mot, Auto, central locking, PAS, tow-bar. £850. o.n.o. 07874 480460.

JAGUAR X TYPE, 02/03, 2.0 petrol, MoT Dec, alarm, immobiliser, alloys, Jag emblem on bonnet, Ex Condition. £1,200 ono. 01922 410974.

MAZDA 6 MoT, diesel, Sports, 5-dr hatchback, red, MoT till June 2016, AC, CD, sun roof, very clean condition, £600 ono. 0121 601 8721.

SKODA OCTAVIA 1.6
2011, 55,800 miles, grey, abs, electric windows/mirrors air bag air con, MoT, metallic paint, central locking, one owner, Alloys, Stereo, Nav System. £6,200. 0870 508532.

VAUXHALL ASTRA 2012, 1.7 Ecotex, diesel, free road tax, MoT, excellent inside/out. £4,995 ono. 01902 637376 or 07751 727862.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 Design, 58 reg, MoT, Automatic, 3dr, 33k, fish, alloys, CD, pas, 1/2 leather £3,995. 01543 450991 or 07940 925241.

VOLVO S60 04 plate, diesel, silver, 60,000 miles, full MoT, 1 owner. Very good condition. £2,000. 07970 406814.

cars under £1500

BMA Est. Here 25 Years
A WIDE RANGE OF CARS UNDER £1,000
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www.bma-motors.co.uk

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that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

CITROEN PICASSO, Blue, Y reg, MoT until October. Good condition, £350 ono. 01384 258919.

CITROEN SAXO 2002, available end of Aug, brakes overhauled, replaced engine, now approx 30,000 miles, new cam belt, head gasket, Mot Jan, good runner. Stafford £550 ono. 07986 895623.

DAEWOO KALOS 1.4, 2003, Black, Petrol, MoT November, £395. o.n.o. Telephone 07999 465016.

DAEWOO MATIZ 2001, 37,755 miles, MoT till May 2016, blue, good condition, below average mileage, £7915 190853.

FORD KA 2005, 63,000 miles, navy blue, abs, MoT, CD, 1.3 engine, 8 months MoT. £495. 07720 245897.

FORD FIESTA Flight 1.3, 2001, MoT immaculate, red, 73,000k, seven services, showroom condition. £850. 07771 428793

FORD FOCUS, 2000, 138,145 miles, green, electric windows, air bag, long Mot, Auto, central locking, PAS, tow-bar. £850. o.n.o. 07874 480460.

JAGUAR X TYPE, 02/03, 2.0 petrol, MoT Dec, alarm, immobiliser, alloys, Jag emblem on bonnet, Ex Condition. £1,200 ono. 01922 410974.

MAZDA 6 MoT, diesel, Sports, 5-dr hatchback, red, MoT till June 2016, AC, CD, sun roof, very clean condition, £600 ono. 0121 601 8721.

PEUGEOT 206 GLX, 2002, 3dr hatchback, red, MoT till June 2016, AC, CD, sun roof, very clean condition, £695 ono. 07855 253534.

PEUGOET 206 CONVERTIBLE 2003, 90,000 miles, blue, electric windows, fish, MoT long Mot, £995 ono. 07855 721501.

SUZUKI GRANDE VITARA 4 x 4, auto, 2004, 2000cc, petrol, excellent condition, below average mileage, £7705. 07785 352719.



VOLKSWAGEN LUPO

2001, 162,000 miles, silver, long MoT, diesel, sunroof, alloys, stereo, CD, airbag, new battery, belts and filters. Ideal first car.

£995.
07527 637170.

classic cars



MINI MAYFAIR

1993, 38,343 miles, blue, 2nd owner from new, metallic paint, 4 new tyres. Factory fitted sunroof and radio. Viewing most welcome Dy6 OAE.

£3,950.
07712 588245.

commercial vehicles



IVECO DAILY
2005, 146,000 miles, grey, long MoT, diesel, lwb. Good condition, useful, high capacity van. £2,500. 07967 313775.

NISSAN VANETTE 1998, for sale spares or repair, 2.3 diesel, 80k, £395 ono. 07528 618499.

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motorbikes

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NFL MOTORCYCLE TRAINING
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WALSALL COUNCIL, PLANNING AND BUILDING CONTROL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 (AS AMENDED) PLANNING LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS ACT 1990 DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE ORDER 2010 (AS AMENDED)

The below applications have been made to the Walsall Council. Applications can be viewed at First Stop Shop, Civic Centre, Walsall or online www.walsall.gov.uk/planning. Representations can be made online, email: planning@walsall.gov.uk or in writing to Head of Planning and Building Control, Civic Centre, Darwall Street, Walsall, WS1 1DG. Representations should be made within 21 days of the date of this notice. Please note: Your letter and personal details will form part of the planning file which is a public document and will be available for inspection at the Council Offices. The information may be released as part of a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

15/07/2015, Keith Thomas and Bob Borg FOR: PROPOSED NEW DWELLING AT: LAND ADJ. 11 STATION ROAD, PELSALL, WALSALL, WS3 4AY

15/10/06/FTLL, Simco External Framing Solutions Ltd FOR: DEMOLITION OF CLUB AND ADJACENT HOUSE AND ERECTION OF A PART TWO PART THREE STOREY BUILDING WITH 35 NO. 1, 2 & 3 FLATS (AFFECTS THE SETTING OF PUBLIC FOOTPATH WALS 49). AT: BIRCHILLS LIBERAL CLUB AND 90 OLD BIRCHILLS, WALSALL, WS2 8QD

TRIUMPH SPRINT ST1050
12,000 miles, 2006, Silver. MoT May 2016. FSH. Heated grips, luggage. Exceptional condition. £3,600. ono. Telephone 01785 220470

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OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

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All Scrap Cars & Vans Wanted
Anything Considered
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vehicles wanted

CROWN MOTORS guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 548849, 01902 697035.

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public & legal notices

9 Local Information

CAROLE SANDRA QUINN (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 29 Blenheim Road Walsall, Woodley Walsall WS9 9ET, who died on 01/03/2015, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 23/10/2015, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

HUGH JAMES
Hodges House 114-116 St Mary Street, Cardiff CF10 1DY 746083

WILLIAM KENNETH WHITEHOUSE (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 73 Woodside Way, Willenhall, West Midlands WV12 8NJ, who died on 23/05/2015, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned on or before 30/10/2015, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

THE CO-OPERATIVE LEGAL SERVICES LIMITED
Aztec 650 Aztec West
Almondsbury Bristol BS32 4SD
(Ref: AYO3640392/Whitehouse) 746850

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In a mess? talk in confidence we can help

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24/7 0121 274 0398

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- Any condition
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- Deceased estates

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01384 226086

Any Property*
Any Condition*
PI Group
*Subject to terms

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Now for the best price
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6 Property

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£16,000
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overseas property

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We pay 100% of purchase price always 0800 085 6626.

A BEST CASH DEAL PAID
for your property every time 01902 628047

ALWAYS CALL US FIRST
for the top price for your house. 0800 169 1118.

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10 Personals

personal

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Photo appreciated (returned). Car if possible but not necessary.
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Wishes to meet lady 50 to 75 years, for Friendship possibly relationship.
Photo appreciated, will return. Write Box No. P20010 (WS), Shropshire Newspapers Ltd, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

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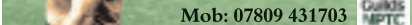
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Manchester Christmas Markets and Coronation Street The Tour

Two days departing November 21



 **PRICE FROM £119**

Wander along the cobbles of Britain's favourite soap plus visit one of Europe's top Christmas markets.

In the run up to Christmas, the heart of Manchester is filled with around 300 stalls which sell unique goods and delicacies from all over the continent.

Everything from fine amber jewellery and handcrafted leather bags, to quality bonsai trees and handmade soaps; french profiteroles and dutch pancakes to spanish paella and hungarian goulash.

The markets, voted as one of the top ten in Europe, are held in several different city centre locations, all with their own theme and distinct character. There is also the main shopping thoroughfare on Market Street with the Arndale Centre, plus a range of specialist boutiques on Cross Street along with Selfridges and Harvey Nichols.

Over 50 years of filming took place at the Old Granada Studios - the former home of Coronation Street before the production moved to its new home at MediaCityUK.

During the tour of Coronation Street a studio guide will share fascinating facts and stories along the way. Step inside the Rovers Return; see a make-up station; a dressing room, plus exclusive props and memorabilia from the Street's long history. Another highlight is the interior sets where key scenes were filmed including Gail Platt's kitchen and the old sitting room of Jack and Vera.

At the end of the tour there is the chance to wander along the cobbles and take some photos outside the Rovers, as well as the houses and shops, as a memento of the day.

INFO

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Visit to the Manchester Christmas markets
- Coronation Street The Tour
- Single rooms subject to availability – supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Pick of the week

Squad is stronger now, says club chief

CHIEF EXECUTIVE Stefan Gamble believes Walsall have begun this season with a stronger squad than the previous campaign.

The Saddlers' chief thinks the relative low turnover of players this summer is a sign of how far the club has progressed during the four-and-a-half year tenure of manager Dean Smith.

To this point, Smith has brought in just three new signings after releasing four and seeing keeper Richard O'Donnell leave on a free transfer to Wigan.

Speaking at a fans' focus meeting held at the Banks's Stadium earlier this week, Gamble confirmed funds are available for Smith to strengthen the squad further before the transfer window closes at the end of the month.

He said: "In my opinion, the squad is slightly stronger than it was 12 months ago.

"We have have had a very small turnover in players.

"There are funds available before the end of the window if he wants to spend.

"From a board's perspective, and from the manager's as well, there is no point in signing players just for the sake of it. There is no point in buying players who are not going to improve on the ones we have got."

Smith has confirmed he wants to bring in at least a couple of new signings before the end of the month.

Walsall's tie at Morecambe in the first round of this year's Johnstone's Paint Trophy competition will take place on Tuesday, September 1, kick-off 7.45pm.

Chambers has top six spot in sights

CAPTAIN Adam Chambers claims Walsall can make the League One top six this season – if they can find consistency.

Chambers has urged the Saddlers to carry their Capital One Cup giant-killing form into their league campaign, which continues with Saturday's trip to Southend.

But the midfielder man says Dean Smith's men must cut out their inconsistency after they wasted a strong start to draw 1-1 with Oldham in their opening League One game of the season.

Smith's side beat Nottingham Forest 4-3 in the League Cup on Tuesday.

"We put in a great performance at Forest and I

thought the lads who came on did excellently as well," said Chambers, who should be fit to face the Shrimpers despite limping off at the City Ground.

"It was one of those performances you just hope you can build on.

"The thing is playing like that consistently in League One. I've said many times that we can put in these performances against top teams. It's just that consistency. We've got to be doing it week in, week out. If we can do that, we will win a lot of games.

"Like I always say, and I feel like I'm always repeating myself, when you work with the lads day in and day out, I know the talent in the squad and I know the potential of a lot of the young players.

"I feel that we have a very good squad and there's no reason why we shouldn't be finishing in the top six.

"We just need to make sure we are consistent and keep putting those levels of performances in and we will win more games than we lose if we do that.

"It's going to be a long season, there's going to be ups and downs but we just need to try to achieve that level again as consistently as possible."

Saddlers striker Tom Bradshaw netted a match-winning hat-trick at Forest and Chambers said: "Tom just finds a way of getting the ball in the back of the net, it's a great skill to have."

"We are really grateful we've got him."

Brad pits himself against Forest side

Notts Forest 3 Walsall 4

A SUPER Tom Bradshaw hat-trick handed Walsall a thrilling last-gasp Capital One Cup win as they maintained their magical hoodoo over Nottingham Forest.

Bradshaw converted a penalty deep into stoppage time to seal the most dramatic of 4-3 wins after two late strikes from Forest substitute Michael Antonio looked to have taken the tie to extra-time.

The Saddlers led 2-0 thanks to Bradshaw's quickfire first-half brace and Romaine Sawyers restored their two-goal advantage after Tyler Walker had netted for Forest.

Antonio struck on 81 and 90 minutes to make it 3-3 but Bradshaw kept his nerve from the spot to extend the Saddlers' unbeaten record over Forest to 12 games and 15 years and secure their place in round two.

Walsall made a crisp, positive start but they survived an early scare when Tyler Walker found some space on the Forest right and crossed for Jamie Ward, who sent a difficult chance over the bar.

It was all Walsall, however, and they went ahead in some style on 12 minutes as they stunned Forest with a moment of quality.

Impressive

An impressive change of pace took Milan Lalkovic past Eric Lichaj in the Forest right-back berth and his cross found its way to the far post, where Bradshaw could not believe his luck as he arrived unmarked to convert a tap-in.

Just two minutes later it got even better for the Saddlers as Bradshaw added his second goal from a similar range.

Kieron Morris dragged a shot from the edge of the area well wide and Forest broke almost immediately to reduce the arrears. Saddlers old-boy Jamie Paterson wriggled free of defenders and crossed from the right, and Walker, son of Forest legend and England old-boy Des, was on hand to convert at the far post for a goal on his full debut.

Forest made a positive start to the second half and Walsall suffered a blow when captain Adam Chambers went down injured.

The midfielder tried to carry on but was replaced by Romaine Sawyers.

While Chambers was struggling, Paterson again let fly with a powerful effort from 20 yards, but this time his shot fizzed just over the cross-bar.

Sawyers was in the action almost immediately as he played his part in a clever interchange of



Sam Mantom and David Vaughan battle for the ball during the clash between Saddlers and Forest

passes on the edge of the Forest area and then tried to apply the finishing touch from long range.

But the substitute's effort from 20 yards dipped over.

Paterson continued to look like the biggest threat to his former employers.

The Saddlers began to flag in the final stages but they remained impressively disciplined. And they looked to have wrapped up victory on 80 minutes

when Kieron Morris' shot was parried by De Vries, Bradshaw took an air shot and the ball dropped for Sawyers to make it 3-1.

But just a minute later Forest were within one goal again as substitute Antonio rattled a 25-yard screamer into the top corner. And they looked to have ensured extra-time when Antonio netted his second.

But in the fifth minute of stoppage-time Bradshaw converted a penalty.

Wood meet their nemesis Brown again

Highgate United 2 Walsall Wood 1

WOOD came away from Tythe Barn Lane pointless yet again.

Lei Brown continued to be their nemesis, as his brace made it seven goals in three games against them.

Wood started brightly and after only four minutes Leon Taylor played a neat one-two through the centre.

Joey Butlin raced into the box and keeper Bradley Catlow saved bravely at his feet, before giving notice of United's plan of action by launching a howitzer of a kick down field, looking for the head of Shane Benjamin, Nathan Edginton or Lei Brown.

It was Wood who threatened again two minutes later, Butlin winning the ball on half-way before putting debutant Chad Degville-Cross clear wide right, his low cross put behind for a corner that was easily cleared.

Steven Hayles right wing run on 37 minutes ended with a cross to the far post, Butlin lost his marker and his header back across the keeper was deflected just the wrong side of the post.

It was Brown who broke the deadlock with a free kick from the right delivered to the near post, his

Football

glancing header looping into the far corner of the net.

Within two minutes Wood nearly equalised, a poor clearance only went to Louis Harris 20 yards out, his low drive was saved by Catlow.

At the start of the second half Wood were closing down the route one supply avenue by defending in the opposition half.

Surging

On 51 minutes a surging run out of defence by Grant Beckett saw his ball inside find Butlin who was flattened on the right edge of the box and for the second game in succession the decision was a free kick, outside not a penalty, much to the striker's disgust.

He took the free kick himself and just cleared the bar.

Disaster for Wood on 62 minutes, a rare piece of neat, short passing football ended with Tyrone Smith racing onto a ball left of the box, only to go down under an untidy, mistimed challenge.

Tom looks to hit the goal trail for Saddlers

STAR striker Tom Bradshaw reckons Walsall are ready to hit the goal trail this season.

Bradshaw bagged a match-winning hat-trick in Tuesday's 4-3 win at Nottingham Forest in the Capital One Cup, and he reckons that free-scoring encounter could be a sign of things to come.

"I think that we've shown through pre-season and the start of the season that we're going to be more positive and score more goals and create more chances this year," said Bradshaw. "I know we only got a draw in the first game of the season but we were trying as hard as we could to create as many chances as possible and be more fluid than last year, and I think we're doing that."

"So it's hopefully an exciting time for the players and the fans as well."

"I think our away form was pretty good last year so hopefully we can take that on into this season and improve our home form – if we can do that, we will be in a good position."

Bradshaw's stoppage-time penalty booked the Saddlers' place in round two and, after keeping his nerve from the spot, the former Shrewsbury man is eyeing an extended run in the competition after helping the club reach Wembley for the first time last season in the Johnstone's Paint Trophy.

"I was practising penalties yesterday and I knew where I was going to go," he said. "It was just a matter of making sure I hit the ball cleanly and planning the celebration."

"I was buzzing. The last penalty I took hit the post in pre-season."

Promotion is possible, says Mantom

SAM MANTOM believes Walsall are now better placed to mount a promotion challenge after admitting there is a totally different feel about the club.

The Saddlers picked up a first league win with a 2-0 success at Southend on Saturday.

Mantom, who netted the second goal at Roots Hall, thinks greater experience, combined with a more positive mindset, has them firmly on track for success.

Having struggled for goals the past two campaigns, Dean Smith's men have scored seven in their opening three fixtures.

And Mantom said: "We are only three games in but straight from the first day of pre-season the gaffer set his stall out and everyone has bought into it."

"There is a totally different feel about the club. You can see it in people's eyes, when we are playing and even in training, there is an added competitiveness."

"People want to win now."

Goalkeeper Bamford is hero of the day

Darlington 1 Kingston 1

WITH two keepers unavailable it was down to 47-year-old goalkeeping coach Scott Bamford to save the day with an impressive league debut for Darlington Town.

The ex-Blackpool keeper helped his side to a 1-1 draw in the home clash with Kingston Town in West Midlands Division One.

Bamford was kept busy throughout the game and without doubt had it not been for his goalkeeping skills, Darlo's fate could have been sealed by half-time.

The visitors took the lead on 25 minutes through a Liam Jones free-kick.

But Darlarton increased their efforts and were worthy of their 68th-minute equaliser when Sam Gills fired the ball home.

Smith backs Bradshaw to improve tally

DEAN SMITH is tipping Tom Bradshaw to smash through last season's goal tally while warning potential suitors it will take a "hell of a lot of money" to get the striker out of Walsall.

The 23-year-old made a super start to his second season with the Saddlers by blasting a hat-trick in this week's 4-3 Capital One Cup win at Nottingham Forest.

Bradshaw proved a revelation last term, netting 20 goals following a move from Shrewsbury and Smith believes he will better the record this year, claiming the forward is already a better player.

It is believed Walsall have turned down a bid from League One rivals Swindon Town for Bradshaw.

"I believe Tom will go and surpass his record from last season because I think he is a much better player than last season, which is saying a lot," said the manager. "His hold up play is better, he makes more intelligent runs now. I think his understanding of the game is better."

Capital Cup draw dates for home clashes

WOLVES, Albion and Walsall will play their Capital One Cup second-round ties on Tuesday, August 25. The Wolves and Walsall games will kick-off at 7.45pm.

Albion's home clash with Port Vale will be an 8pm kick-off.

The full draw is: VILLA v Notts Cty, WALSALL v Brighton, Palace v Shrewsbury, Sheff Wed v Oxford, Portsmouth v Reading, Hartlepool v Bournemouth, Fulham v Sheff Utd, MK Dons v Cardiff, Hull v Rochdale, Sunderland v Exeter, Bury v Leicester, Doncaster v Ipswich, Rotherham v Norwich, Swansea v York, QPR v Carlisle, Barnsley v Everton, Peterborough v Charlton, BLUES v Gillingham, Newcastle v Northampton, ALBION v Port Vale, WOLVES v Barnet, Burton v Middlesbrough, Luton v Stoke, Preston v Watford.



The Lockmen leave it until injury time

Bromyard Town 1 Willenhall Town 2
THE Lockmen returned from Herefordshire with their unbeaten record intact but the Willenhall side left it until injury-time to grab the winner in the West Midlands Premier.

Willenhall were caught cold inside 15 seconds when their hosts raced forward from kick-off and Dorian Colling headed beyond James Wilson to Matt Dobson to bundle home, but fortunately for the Lockmen he was ruled offside by the officials.

Bromyard's Colling headed wide on seven minutes before he eventually broke the deadlock on 10 minutes when a long ball forward was flicked on and he ran through to coolly plant the ball in the net.

Mikey Clark threatened twice and Kieran Robinson was just too high with a shot before Willenhall levelled on 32 minutes.

Ryan Ward began the move and threaded a clever pass through the defence for Clark to run onto and finish into the corner.

There was controversy as the referee blew for half-time as a Bromyard player fired the ball goalwards, the subsequent score again not being allowed to stand for the home side.

Craig Stevens saw a shot blocked from Ward's set-up before Ward fired just over on 59 minutes but there was late drama.

Clark was then just off target as was Alex Carlin before the late drama gave Willenhall maximum points.

With three of the allotted four minutes stoppage-time already played, Clark made a dazzling run, leaving three men behind him, and his pull-back found Stevens inside the six-yard box to fire a deserved winner.

Rushall kick off their campaign with an easy win

Rushall 2 Ramsbottom United 0
RUSHALL kicked off the Evo-Stik Premier season with a comfortable 2-0 win over Ramsbottom United at Dales Lane.

The Pies took the lead thanks to an early contribution for goal of the season from Kris Taylor, who lobbed Grant Shenton from 40 yards in the third minute.

Shenton redeemed himself with a string of outstanding saves, denying Luke Benbow on three occasions.

The visitors had their keeper to thank again as he somehow got down low to keep out Jack Duggan's powerful effort and then tipped Taylor's rocket of a volley over the bar.

Benbow burst past Andy Fitzgerald and squared for Alex Reid to finish through Shenton's legs two minutes into the second half with a goal that sealed all three points.

Reid almost grabbed another but Shenton tipped his shot over then denied Benbow yet again from point blank range.

Lee Gaskell forced Dean Coleman into a save late on but the Pies keeper wasn't troubled too much.

Wood have to do it all over again



Jean Kalenda and Wood's Leon Taylor

Hinckley AFC 0 Walsall Wood 0
FA Cup EP Round (Pic Will Kilpatrick)

THE tie was always going to be a banana skin for Wood and so it nearly proved.

The home side lost Liam Smith on 35 minutes to a red card for hauling down Joey Butlin, keeper Sam Arnold saved Butlin's penalty kick and the 10-men comfortably survived for 55 minutes to book a replay.

Wood almost opened the scoring a minute later.

Wood nearly self-destructed on seven minutes, a terrible back pass putting Mario Kisiel under intense pressure, his hurried clearance fell to Sean Williams, his first time rising drive into the right hand corner

Football

bringing a great one handed save from the keeper. The home side opened up the Wood defence down the right on 17 minutes, Javia Roberts racing clear crossing low across the face of the box, Williams allowing the ball to run on for Nathan Walker to hit a first time drive just too high.

Hinckley reorganised at the start of the second half with man of the match Williams going to left back. On 76 minutes a powerful header forward from halfway by Harris found Currithers only to drag his cross shot agonisingly wide. ● Nemesis - inside

SADDLERS SORT OUT SHRIMPERS

Southend 0 Walsall 2

GOING through the season's opening week unbeaten is nothing new for Walsall, but rarely can the achievement have provided so much encouragement.

For the third campaign running, Dean Smith's Saddlers have escaped the first three fixtures unscathed.

The most pleasing statistic is easy to find. Seven goals scored in three games suggests a team well on course to banish their shot-shy reputation of the previous two campaigns.

Another two at Roots Hall could easily have been, but for an excellent performance from home keeper Dan Bentley.

There was little he could do about the two shots which did beat him, with the identity of the second scorer another huge positive for Smith on a day where there were plenty to be found.

It is often a tired cliché to describe a player returning from lengthy injury as 'like a new signing', but in Sam Mantom's case it is perfectly appropriate.

His return to first-team action has unsurprisingly been more steady than spectacular, but on Saturday there were signs the midfielder is getting back near the form which saw him named player of the season two years ago.

Having snatched at an opportunity in the first half, Mantom made no mistake when Andy Taylor's deflected cross fell to him on the edge of the box, smashing home his first goal in 17 months to all but end the game as a contest.

The scorer of Walsall's eighth-minute opener had been far more familiar, as Tom Bradshaw picked up where he left off following his hat-trick at Nottingham Forest.

Smith for one appears relaxed and, as he was keen to stress, Saturday's win was all about team effort.

With the manager having once again changed personnel and tactics, the Saddlers dominated for the opening hour and, while there was an inevitable rally from the sluggish hosts, it came too late to cause any real concern.

The precision of the passing was what attracted most.



Tom Bradshaw nearly scores again for Walsall in their 2-0 victory against Southend

Mandeep has muscled his way to the top

WALSALL world champion Mandeep Shergill has muscled into the world of powerlifting.

Inside a year of competing competitively, Shergill is both UK and World champion at junior level (aged 20-23 category) and is looking to make it a triple crown as he heads out to Italy for September's European Championships.

Keeping fit and lifting weights is not just a part-time sport for Shergill, he also works as a personal trainer at the Alexander Stadium.

The 20-year-old student said: "I used to train in the gym there just as a hobby. But the manager saw me and said you need to start competing. Within a few months I had

qualified from the local tournaments and ended up winning the UK title."

The sport consists of three separate lifts, squat, bench press and a deadlift.

Shergill, who competes in the -90kg category, says his speciality is the squat. "I have a lot of power in my legs. My record squat is 245kg," he said.

Khalsa put on five-star performance

Malvern Town 0 Sporting Khalsa 5
A five-star performance by Sporting Khalsa helped them ease past Malvern Town in a one-sided FA Cup extra preliminary round tie.

The match highlights were three stunning strikes which would grace any FA Cup Final, let alone the first round of matches in the competition.

Khalsa dominated from the outset and the home side only had a single effort deep into the second half to show for their day.

Skippier Lee Wherton was forced from the field with an injury.

But his replacement, Khalsa's top scorer last season Craig Bannister, was to play a decisive part in the performance.

Bannister forced a brilliant save from Charles Weaver on 26 minutes, the keeper tipping over a long-range volley, before four minutes later the same player curled a magnificent shot in from the edge of the area to open the scoring.

Dave Meese doubled the lead six minutes later, slotting home after brilliant work down the right by Mensah Kinch.

Just before half time Kinch controlled the ball on his chest 25 yards out with his back to goal and rifled a low shot into the bottom right-hand corner.

Tes Robinson made it four on 58 minutes, heading home from close range after a Meese flick on from a Jackson corner.

Malvern's first effort on goal came on 73 minutes, an ambitious lob by substitute Matt Turner.

Perhaps the best of the five goals came as Bannister racing from the half way line on the break and ignoring shouts to hold up the ball by calmly chipped over Weaver and into the back of the net.

Ikeme called up for international role

WOLVES goalkeeper Carl Ikeme has been called up to the Nigeria squad for the first time.

The 29-year-old has been named in manager Sunday Oliseh's squad for the Afcon qualifier against Tanzania on September 3.

Ikeme - whose father was born in Nigeria - was surprisingly dropped by Kenny Jackett for the home game against Hull on Sunday.

He recently spoke of his international ambitions. "My father was born there and a lot of my family are still in Nigeria so it would mean something to my whole family," Ikeme said last month.

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Tel: 01922 720000

20 Lichfield Street, Walsall, WS1 1TJ

www.hcbgroup.com

Katie Baker-Clifton, Solicitor